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Jerusalem police arrest a haredi demonstrator after stones and bottles were thrown at them on Rehov Bar-Ilan yesterday. Altogether, 24 haredim were arrested, and nine policemen were injured. Story, Page 2.

Bar-On Affair decision today

Netanyahu unlikely to be indicted

By SARAH HONIG

State Attorney Edna Arbel and Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein are due to publish their decision later today on whether to indict Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and other officials in the Bar-On Affair.

While an indictment of Netanyahu is not expected, the political arena is now focusing on whether the report on the affair will include harsh criticism of the prime minister. If Netanyahu is censured, this could still endanger his government.

Arbel and Rubinstein held a marathon session on the affair last night.

Of the four persons police recommended for indictment - Netanyahu, Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, Prime Minister's Office Director-General Avigdor Lieberman and Shas leader Aryeh Deri - it is believed that only Deri may face charges in the affair.

Police accusations against the first three involve breach of trust, an offense restricted to public servants for acting for reasons other than the public good. However, this is difficult to prove in court.

Both Labor and Likud sources

noted last night that of the police investigating team only National Investigations chief Cmdr. Sando Mazor insisted on recommending

Clinton: Don't let affair harm peace, Page 2

indictments, while the other team members said such charges could not be supported by evidence.

However, the allegations against Deri involve extortion, a more severe offense.

Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav said last night he was convinced no indictment would be issued against the prime minister. "Netanyahu acted in good faith and I have no doubt that the State Attorney's Office has this fact in mind," he said.

However, opposition forces are already planning petitions to the High Court of Justice in the event that no one is indicted.

In anticipation of today's decision, there was a flurry of contacts over the weekend by all sides of the political spectrum.

Last night, the Likud began a

dialogue with what are perceived as the "weak links" in the coalition - Yisrael Ba'aliya and The Third Way - to prevent their walkout in the event of a censorious report.

Likewise, sources close to the prime minister issued signals that he would engage in no vendettas against ministers who had failed to support him throughout his ordeal. This is apparently aimed at preventing defections by ministers such as Dan Meridor and Limor Livnat.

The feeling in the Likud yesterday was that the report could be serious.

Livnat said it would be a matter of "whether the prime minister will be accused of being part of a conspiracy or whether at worst he put into motion an erroneous political move, something which is not unheard of and which is hardly criminal or bordering on the criminal."

The Likud faction, meanwhile, was also concerned that a cabinet reshuffle would be unavoidable. The report may make it difficult for Hanegbi to continue as justice minister, thus leading to a broad portfolio swap.

Continued on Page 12

Arafat orders renewal of PA-Israel security cooperation

Jerusalem Post Staff and news agencies

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat has ordered Palestinian security forces to renew cooperation with their Israeli counterparts, ending a one-month break in security contacts, according to media reports over the weekend.

Arafat's concession followed Israeli-Palestinian security meetings mediated by US envoy Dennis Ross, who returned to Washington yesterday after his latest attempt to revive the Middle East peace process.

Arafat's adviser Marwan Kanafani refused to confirm or deny the reports.

Arafat met at Ross's request on Thursday night with Chief of

General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak and General Security Service chief Ami Ayalon to help get such cooperation going again. Ross, top Central Intelligence Agency officials, and Palestinian security officials also attended.

General Security Service officials and the PA's Preventive Security Service had met earlier. Palestinians insisted those talks were a gesture toward the US, not Israel.

Referring to the meetings, Ross said in a statement issued Friday that "those discussions were positive, and the US will work closely with the parties as they follow up."

During Thursday's meeting, Arafat warned Ross that continuation of the settlements and con-

struction at Har Homa would lead to a deterioration in the security situation.

Ross reportedly suggested freezing construction at Har Homa and the settlements for six months, to allow the two sides to reach an agreement. But Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat rejected this, saying the construction and the settlements must stop completely. Arafat broke the contacts in mid-March after construction began at Har Homa.

Even before the reported order resuming security cooperation, earlier this month the Palestinian Police helped Israel track down the Hamas terror cell responsible for the murder of 12 Israelis, including the killings at Tel Aviv's Apropo cafe and the murder of soldier Sharon Edri.

Kiryat Bialik man dies of heart attack while trying to kill wife

By DAVID RUDGE

A man collapsed and died, apparently of a heart attack, while trying to stab his wife to death at their home in Kiryat Bialik early yesterday morning.

Police said Shlomo Almog, 48, had attacked his wife Shoshana, 50, and stabbed her several times in the face and neck.

"In the middle of the incident, he apparently suffered a heart attack. He fell over and died," said Supt. Shlomit Minkovsky, spokesperson for the Haifa district.

Shoshana Almog was moderately injured and was taken to Haifa's Rambam Hospital. The couple's three children, a son, 17, and two daughters, 14, and nine, were at home during the incident.

The elder daughter called the police and an ambulance to their home around 5 a.m. yesterday. The cou-

ple had reportedly had rowdy arguments in the past, but no complaints had been lodged with police.

Almog had apparently been suffering from depression and had been due to undergo heart bypass surgery.

In a separate case, police arrested a Haifa resident late on Friday night in connection with the murder of a nurse at her apartment in the city earlier in the day.

The body of Salva Gerise, 30, was found in her burned out apartment after it had been deliberately set on fire. The body was later sent for an autopsy.

Gerise, who worked as a nurse at Haifa's Carmel Hospital, was single and shared the apartment with another woman who was not at home at the time of the murder.

Minkovsky said the suspect, 22, who was on leave from prison, was arrested following a chase in the Shfar'am area on Friday night and was cooperating with police.



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NEWS

in brief

Peres: Unity government dream over

Labor Party leader Shimon Peres said yesterday that the dream of a national unity government no longer exists because of the Bar-On Affair. "There is no basis for a national unity government in the present situation," Peres said in an interview with Army Radio.

He added that from now on, the Labor Party will work to topple the prime minister and the government with all means at its disposal in the Knesset and the public arena. *Itm*

Netanyahu to keep Science portfolio

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu informed the cabinet at its weekly meeting Friday that he would retain the Science portfolio, vacated by MK Ze'ev Begin three months ago in protest of the approval of the Hebron accord.

Friday was the deadline for Netanyahu to make a decision on the portfolio, and it was believed he would keep it to avoid deciding among candidates and in advance of a possible unity government. *Itm*

Violence in Tzurif after lifting of curfew

Violence erupted Friday in Tzurif after the lifting of a curfew imposed following the March 21 bombing of the Aproso cafe in Tel Aviv. Stone throwers slightly injured a border policeman, and two villagers were injured when IDF troops fired rubber bullets at them.

The same day, several firebombs were tossed at an IDF vehicle near Beit Umar, in the Hebron area. Friday evening, a firebomb was hurled at a car bearing Israeli plates near Bidiya. There were no injuries and no damage was caused in either incident.

The body of missing soldier Sharon Edri was found in the village on April 9 after a Hamas cell operating there was cracked, which also claimed responsibility for the cafe bombing. *News agencies*

Pressler Commission to submit findings today

The Pressler Commission, established to look into the circumstances surrounding the murder of seven Beit Shemesh schoolgirls by a Jordanian soldier at Naharayim last month, is to present its findings today to Education Minister Zevulun Hammer.

The commission examined various aspects of the ministry's involvement in such school trips, and trips to Naharayim in particular.

The commission members visited the site and the AMIT Fuerst School the girls attended. They also heard testimony from ministry officials responsible for trip security, the girls' classmates, their teachers and their parents.

The commission's report is also expected to relate to how ministry regulations regarding such trips were implemented. *Arjeh Dean Cohen*



State of Israel

The Speaker of the Knesset
The Deputy Speaker
Knesset Members
The Knesset Secretary
Knesset Staff

Bow their heads and deeply mourn the passing of
General (Res.)

CHAIM HERZOG

Sixth President of the State of Israel
and former Knesset Member
and extend condolences to the family

Della and Fred Worms

deeply mourn the passing of their friend

CHAIM HERZOG

and send their heartfelt condolences to
Aura and the family

The leadership of State of Israel Bonds

deeply mourns the passing of
the Sixth President of the State of Israel

CHAIM HERZOG

A towering leader of Israel
whose life was an inspiration
for Jews everywhere



24 arrested in Bar-Ilan protests

By ELLI WOHLGELERINTER

Twenty-four people were arrested and nine policemen were injured yesterday on Rehov Bar-Ilan in Jerusalem, as 5,000 haredim gathered there in the afternoon and threw stones and empty bottles in another demonstration to press for the closure of the thoroughfare on Shabbat.

Police said 20 of the arrested were suspected of assaulting police officers and trying to close down the road, while the other four were taken in after rolling a garbage can into the middle of the road.

The demonstration followed a cumulative weekend of protest, beginning on Friday night, when three nurses who work in an old-age home near Rehov Bar-Ilan were assaulted by haredim and had to be rescued by police.

Yesterday morning, police estimated that 1,000 to 1,500

people were involved in the usual chanting of "Shabbos, Shabbos" at passing motorists, and an attempt to march in the street to block traffic.

Hundreds of police deployed throughout the day, including reinforcements from outside the city, prevented the street's closing. One passing car was stoned, but there was little traffic overall during the day.

The weekend disturbances were in response to the High Court of Justice ruling last Sunday, which said that the plan by Transportation Minister Yitzhak Levy to close the street was unworkable as constituted, but the road could be closed if arrangements were made for the secular residents of the area.

While many saw the decision to mean that the street would eventually be closed to traffic, the feeling among haredim was that the demonstrations should continue until the street is

actually closed. Ornan Yekutieli, Meretz city councilman and leader of the fight for secular rights, called on all secular residents of Jerusalem to ride next Shabbat along Rehov Bar-Ilan to strengthen the police and ensure the High Court's decision would be enforced.

"We announced that we would be not present this weekend, but today it was made clear that the haredim are not going to respect the decision of the High Court of Justice," he said.

Jerusalem police chief Cmdr. Yair Yitzhaki said that more efforts would be made this week to calm tensions over the issue, before the next decision by Levy would be issued. Yitzhaki said that if there was a deterioration in the situation and the demonstrations became more violent, he would not hesitate to use horses and water cannons to keep the situation under control.



In the presence of the nation's leaders, former president Chaim Herzog is laid to rest Friday at Mount Herzl. (Bryan McBurney)

Herzog laid to rest on Mt. Herzl

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

In the grand hall of Beit Hanassi where for 10 years she had greeted so many people at presidential receptions, Aura Herzog on Friday received the condolences of the nation on the death of her husband and Israel's sixth president, Chaim Herzog.

At her side were her children, Joel, Michael, Isaac and Ronit, and other relatives. Representatives from the former president's many, diverse areas of activity were among the hundreds of people from all over the country who came to pay their last respects to the man whom his successor, Ezer Weizman, described as "the personification of the Zionist movement."

Aura Herzog was amazed by the flood of messages she had received from monarchs, heads of state and government leaders from all over the world since her husband's death on Thursday morning. With his passing, Herzog changed the balance of the most exclusive fraternity in Israel, the Presidents' Club. Prior to his death, it had a membership of four of Israel's seven presidents. Now there are three: Ephraim Katzir, Yitzhak Navon and Ezer Weizman.

Among the people who for over four hours filed through Beit Hanassi where Herzog's flag-draped coffin lay in state were Judge Israel Feinstein and his wife, Marion, whose wedding Herzog had attended in London 50 years ago. Herzog and his wife would have celebrated their own 50th wedding anniversary in three weeks.

Many of the visitors wrote inscriptions in a book of remembrance alongside which were a black-ribboned photograph of Herzog, a memorial candle and his military decorations.

At one stage, the area of the room in which Aura Herzog was seated appeared to represent the human saga of the creation and development of the state.

Alongside her were Ezer and Reuma Weizman, her brother-in-law Abba Eban and Teddy Kollek.

The sight prompted British Ambassador David Manning to remark that Herzog himself had been "a living link with the past."

Nissan Limor, who had been director-general of Beit Hanassi for the whole of Herzog's tenure, and Ami Gluska, who had been his military adjutant for five years, both said his visit to Bergen-Belsen was the most memorable and emotional event of his term.

Herzog was the first Israeli president to set foot in Germany, Gluska recalled. As a member of Montgomery's forces, Herzog had been among the liberators of Bergen-Belsen and for him the controversial visit was the closing of a circle. But he had made it very clear that neither Israel nor the Jewish people would forgive or forget.

Limor also recalled a later visit to Auschwitz where Herzog had wept openly.

Herzog's broad interests and multifaceted background were valuable tools in helping him carry out the responsibilities of his office, Limor said. "They enhanced his sensitivity towards other people."

Herzog was the only president, he added, who had had to deal with six governments and four heads of government.

At the graveside on Mount Herzl, Herzog was eulogized by Weizman, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Labor leader Shimon Peres, Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau, his second son, Col. Michael Herzog, and his third son, Isaac Herzog.

All of them listed his many attributes, yet each had something different to say. Weizman spoke of his valuable contribution in building the IDF. As a former intelligence officer in the British army, Herzog had much to give.

"The young army needed all his knowledge and experience," said Isaac Herzog. "You were a link in a chain of messengers to the people."

Wreaths were laid by Weizman and Netanyahu, who were followed by deputy Knesset Speaker Meir Sheetrit, Supreme Court President Aharon Barak, IDF Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz and others, including US Ambassador Martin Indyk.

As the dignitaries circled the grave they were joined by the rank and file of the population who throughout the service had stood behind barricades in the hot sun.

The funeral was conducted by the IDF Rabbinate's burial society. The marker on the grave made no mention of the presidency, but said simply, Maj. Gen. Chaim Herzog.

Herzog served Israel "with incomparable statesmanship both in and out of uniform" said Peres, remembering that Herzog had been military governor of Jerusalem at the time it was reunited.

Lau defined Herzog as a bridge between the past and the future, the sword and the book, and Israel and the Diaspora.

All the speakers underscored Herzog's pride in his Jewishness, as did his son Michael, who said, "You lived as a proud Jew and a proud

Israeli."

He recalled having often heard his father say how proud his own father, Chief Rabbi Isaac Halevy Herzog, had been to have a son who was an officer in the Israeli army, "and I am proud to escort you on your last journey in the uniform of that army."

"You always regarded yourself as a messenger of the people," said Isaac Herzog. "You were a link in a chain of messengers to the people."

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Clinton: Don't let Bar-On Affair derail peace

News agencies

WASHINGTON - US President Bill Clinton said on Friday that the Bar-On Affair must not be allowed to derail Middle East peace efforts.

Clinton said a police recommendation that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu be charged with fraud is "obviously an internal matter for Israel to deal with," adding: "They are a great and vibrant democracy and they'll deal with that in their way."

But, he told reporters at a briefing in the White House: "We just can't allow anything, anything to derail the peace process and I don't believe we will."

Clinton said he had not talked to Netanyahu since the prime minister visited Washington on April 7.

He said it was vital to keep pressing ahead to bring Israel and the Palestinians together. "The important thing is we get this security cooperation up and going and then we just keep plugging ahead," he said.

US, German presidents send condolences

Chaim Herzog "personified a vibrant, emerging Israel, taking its place in the community of nations," US President Bill Clinton wrote in his message of condolence to the family of the former president. Clinton's message was one of a multitude that poured in from statesmen and monarchs around the world.

German President Roman Herzog said that in Herzog's death his country lost "a friend and partner." He described the former president as "a fighter for peace, justice and reconciliation." *Jerusalem Post Staff*

LIBI - The Fund for Strengthening Israel's Defense

Friends of the LIBI Fund are now receiving appeals for donations to support Israel's defense efforts.

The objectives of the Libi Fund are: Education, immigrant absorption and the purchase of medical equipment.

In the field of education, the LIBI Fund endeavors to provide a basic education for all those soldiers whose schooling was incomplete before they joined the army.

The Education Corps provides Hebrew language study for new immigrant soldiers, as well as courses in Jewish history, Judaism and Zionism.

In the field of medicine, the Libi Fund purchases equipment for treating and saving the lives of IDF wounded.

We hope that all Libi Friends will respond generously to our appeal for contributions.

Our address is:
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On the Albanian waterfront
Italian soldiers patrol the beach of Vlora yesterday to prepare for the deployment of Italian and Greek troops there this week. Vlora is expected to be the base of the Italian and Greek contingent which is part of the 6,000-strong UN-backed task force which will protect humanitarian aid convoys to Albania.

Chirac may call snap election

PARIS (AP) — President Jacques Chirac, feeling the pinch on his popularity ratings and fearing tough times ahead, has decided to go for broke and call early legislative elections, the French press reported this weekend.

According to the respected independent newspaper *Le Monde*, Chirac will address the nation tomorrow night, announcing the dissolution of the National Assembly.

The report, echoed in the left-leaning paper *Liberation*, gave an authoritative twist to a week of rumors that Chirac would dissolve the legislature to pump up his authority at a critical moment for France.

The two-round vote could be held May 25 and June 1, according to *Le Monde*. Earlier reports said it could be June 1 and June 8.

Legislative elections, held every five years, are normally scheduled for March 1998. They were last held in 1993 when the Socialists, dogged by corruption scandals after a dozen years in power, were crushed by the right.

A spokesman for the presidential Elysee Palace, Laurent Giepin, refused comment on the report that Chirac would make an announcement tomorrow, or anytime.

He denied *Le Monde's* claim that a team of specialists was at work to define the parameters of economic change, including what sacrifices could be sought and how far the state should go in its privatization program.

Chirac's perpetually low popularity rating, a new rise in unemployment to a record 12.8 percent and fears France may not qualify to join the single European currency in 1999 all have spurred speculation that change is in order.

Talk of a cabinet shuffle has over the past week given way to rumors of a more drastic tactic: an early parliamentary vote.

A poll by the IFOP firm to be published in today's *Le Journal du Dimanche*, shows Chirac's popularity sliding a point in a month, to 31 percent, and Premier Alain Juppe's falling two points, to 27 percent.

A second IFOP poll shows that 59 percent of the French favor dissolving the National Assembly, while 38 percent oppose the move. No margins of error were given, but such polls usually carry a margin of plus or minus 3 percent.

Michel Pericard, president of Chirac's conservative Rally for the Republic party in the National Assembly, said yesterday that an early vote was "the most probable scenario."

"There is a kind of crisis in the country," Pericard told Europe 1 radio, "or rather a blockage." The president "must make a strong move to give public opinion a voice and assure that the situation is unblocked." There also are strategic reasons for calling early elections.

While Chirac's center-right majority holds 80 percent of the National Assembly's 577 seats, it is unlikely that wide margin could be matched by next March.

Bulgarian pro-Westerners winning poll

SOFIA (AP) — A staunchly pro-western alliance garnered more than half the vote yesterday in early parliamentary elections, called after street protests drove the governing former communists from power, an exit poll indicated.

Based on results in half of Bulgaria's 250 polling stations, the United Democratic Forces took 56 percent of the vote, according to the poll by Gallup International.

The Socialist Party of former communists, blamed by most Bulgarians for the country's economic misery, got 19 percent, while the Movement for Rights and Freedoms, a party comprising mostly ethnic Turks, took 7 percent, Gallup said.

The Euro-Left, a group of former communists who defected from Socialist ranks in January, garnered some 6 percent while the Bulgarian Business Bloc took 5 percent.

A telephone poll conducted by the Fakel news agency and broadcast by independent Darik radio showed similar results.

In the run-up to yesterday's elections, all public opinion surveys had indicated a clear win by economist Ivan Kostov's United Democratic Forces, the alliance that has run the caretaker government since the Socialists were ousted Feb. 4 after a month of street protests.

The nationwide protest movement was prompted by nearly 1 1/2 years of Socialist mismanagement, widespread corruption and an economic crisis that has left most Bulgarians poorer than they've been in decades.

At stake are 240 seats in parliament to be distributed among the United Democratic Forces, the Socialists and three smaller parties, including the mainly Turkish grouping. Parties needed to garner 4 percent of the vote to get seats.

IRA admits responsibility for bombs, alerts

DUBLIN (Reuters) — The Irish Republican Army yesterday admitted responsibility for Friday's bombs and alerts that paralyzed British motorways and railways. The IRA, battling to oust Britain from Northern Ireland, made the admission in the call to the Irish broadcasting network RTE.

Two blasts and a series of suspected IRA bomb warnings paralyzed rail and road traffic in northern England on Friday in what appeared to be the latest attempt by the organization to disrupt Britain's election campaign.

There were small explosions at railway stations in Doncaster and Leeds in northern England. Police said they carried out a controlled explosion on a package they suspected could be a bomb at Stoke station in the northwest.

A large section of the main M6 motorway, linking southern Britain with the northwest, was also closed after a phone call threatening a bomb explosion.

In Leeds, a large part of the city center was sealed off after the explosion, for which there was no warning. "It was a loud but relatively small explosion along the tracks in an equipment cabinet," said a spokesman for the fire brigade.

N. Korea asks for more time to think about peace talks

NEW YORK (AP) — North Korea yesterday asked for more time to decide whether to accept a US-South Korean offer of four-way peace negotiations to formally end the state of war on the divided Korean Peninsula.

US and South Korean officials had hoped for a North Korean response Friday, after two days of meetings. The three countries are holding talks to arrange border negotiations that would include China. But Friday's meeting was rescheduled after the North Koreans said they were awaiting instructions from their government in Pyongyang.

American and South Korean negotiators waited for the North Koreans at a Manhattan hotel for yesterday's meeting. But a half hour after the scheduled starting time, US officials said the North had asked for more low-level discussions, presumably to resolve differences raised by Pyongyang.

US officials said they were unsure why the North Koreans were delaying a decision. "They simply told us they were not ready to resume talks at the 'heads of delegation' level," said one US official.

Americans leave Zaire; Mobutu agrees to talk

WASHINGTON — Dependents of US Embassy staff in Kinshasa, Zaire, who are not employed in essential embassy jobs have been ordered to leave the troubled country, the State Department said yesterday. The department also strongly recommended that private American citizens get out.

The government issued the order Friday night amid a seven-month rebel push to topple President Mobutu Sese Seko.

Seven dependents remained at the embassy, but five hold jobs considered essential and will be allowed to stay. State Department spokeswoman Stephanie Eicher said.

The remaining two were to fly out early next week, once the necessary paperwork was completed and flights on commercial airlines booked, Eicher said. She added that the order is not an evacuation and the dependents' departure is not considered an emergency.

The State Department recommended last month that embassy dependents and the estimated 387 private Americans in Zaire leave, but the action was not mandatory. The latest directive compels non-essential embassy dependents to leave.

"We are downsizing again just to reinforce that this is a very unsettled area," Eicher said.

The embattled Mobutu has agreed to talks with the rebels threatening to overrun Kinshasa, now the last stronghold of his collapsing army.

In doing so he may be hoping to find a dignified way out of power after ruling the Central African nation largely unchallenged for more than three decades. The rebels insist he must surrender power unconditionally.

Mobutu's security aide, Honore Ngbanda, said Friday the planned meeting between the president and guerrilla leader Laurent Kabila would focus on transitional arrangements leading to elections.

Mobutu's camp maintains in public that if the president is to go, it is up to Zaireans to vote him out of power in what would be the country's first democratic elections since he took office in a coup d'etat in 1965.

The rebels had agreed on the need for "a transition process leading to transparent and non-exclusive elections," Ngbanda told a news conference in Kinshasa.

He was referring to a joint communiqué he and other envoys from Kinshasa signed with a rebel delegation during exploratory talks this month in South Africa.

But the rebels have once again hardened their conditions, saying they will march on the capital if Mobutu refuses at the planned meeting to step aside.

Since taking up arms last October the rebels have swept through more than half the territory of the vast nation, seizing key cities and the richest mineral-producing provinces.

The rebels captured the copper center of Lubumbashi last week, leaving Kinshasa as the only important city in the hands of Mobutu's ragged army.

Kabila has predicted his forces will be in Kinshasa in three weeks and has ruled out any negotiations or a cease-fire agreement at the planned meeting with Mobutu.

"There will be no protracted negotiations with Mobutu, never, never," Kabila said in a telephone interview from Lubumbashi.

"Maybe we have been misunderstood. The issue is about transfer of power, otherwise we march on Kinshasa."

Ngbanda declined direct comment on Kabila's statement but said the planned meeting between the two leading protagonists in the Zairian conflict was on course.

South Africa was preparing to host the meeting in Cape Town, possibly Wednesday, government sources said.

Gujral chosen as India's PM

NEW DELHI (AP) — India's fractious governing coalition ended weeks of paralyzing uncertainty yesterday, choosing the foreign minister to replace Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda, ousted last month on a no-confidence vote.

Gowda himself announced Inder Kumar Gujral's selection after a late-night meeting of the United Front coalition's decision-making steering committee.

"I.K. Gujral was the best choice. He was the consensus candidate," said Chandrababu Naidu, the coalition leader who mediated among the various parties during the search for a new prime minister.

"I promise to serve with all my capacity ... to give a government that attends to the basic problems of India — poverty, backwardness and also social justice," Gujral told reporters.

"A humble man will serve the nation in the 50th year of the country's independence," he said.

President Shankar Dayal Sharma would be approached today to endorse Gujral as prime minister, Naidu said.

Gujral, 77, can govern with the support of the Congress Party, which toppled Gowda's 10-month-old administration and then promised to back his United Front once the coalition settled on a new leader.

But within an hour of his selection, new troubles began for the United Front when a southern party, whose leader, G.K. Moopanar, was in the race for prime minister announced that it would not participate in the government, leaving the new coalition weaker and more vulnerable.

The decision by the Tamil Nadu Congress would mean that Finance Minister P. Chidambaram, a member of the party who was widely seen as a promoter of free market reforms, will not be in the new Cabinet.

Negotiations stalled late Friday and squabbles began yesterday after the party threatened not to cooperate because leftist parties had opposed the choice of Moopanar as the prime minister.

It will be the third government India has had since elections last year, left no party with a clear parliamentary majority. The hung parliament has been a stage for constant jockeying that is unlikely to end with Gujral's appointment.

"I hope that the new government will last a little longer than the one headed by Mr. H.D. Deve Gowda," said Atal Behari Vajpayee of the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party.

Yad Vashem
The Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

HOLOCAUST MARTYRS' AND HEROES' REMEMBRANCE DAY
WILL BE HELD THIS YEAR ON MONDAY 5TH MAY 1997

PROGRAM OF EVENTS AT YAD VASHEM

The Eve of Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day, Sunday May 4 1997

20:00 - The opening ceremony of Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day, Warsaw Ghetto Square
22:00 - "The Holocaust in the Contemporary Arts" - panel discussion, Auditorium

Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day, Monday May 5 1997

10:00 - Siren
10:02 - Wreath-laying ceremony with the participation of the President, the Prime Minister, the Speaker of the Knesset, public figures, survivors' organizations, school children and delegations from all over the country, Warsaw Ghetto Square
10:30-13:00 - "Until Every Person There is a Name" - recitation of names of Holocaust victims by members of the public, Hall of Remembrance
13:00 - Main memorial ceremony with cantor, Hall of Remembrance
10:30-16:00 - Continuous screening of films on the Holocaust, Auditorium
17:30 - Ceremony for youth movements with the participation of the Deputy Prime Minister, MK Ze'evulun Hammer, Minister of Education, Culture and Sport. The ceremony is being held in conjunction with the Israel Information Center, the Youth Authority, the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport, and the Youth Movement Council, Warsaw Ghetto Square

Additional information
On Remembrance Day Eve, Sunday May 4, 1997, Yad Vashem will be open to the public from 09:00 until 13:00.
At 17:30, invitees to the opening ceremony will be admitted to the site.
At 21:30, the public is invited to attend the debate in the Auditorium.
On Remembrance Day, Monday May 5, 1997, Yad Vashem will be open to the public from 08:00 until 20:00.
Private vehicles will not be admitted to Yad Vashem on Remembrance Day Eve or on Remembrance Day itself.
Parking facilities are available on Mt. Herzl.
Transportation from Mt. Herzl to Yad Vashem will be available to the public for all Remembrance Day events.
The public is invited to visit two exhibitions currently on display in the Art Museum:
"The Last Ghetto Life in Lodz Ghetto"
"From the Depths" - David Olère: An Artist in Auschwitz

All events are open to the public

Please bring your invitation to the opening ceremony. Invitations may be obtained from the Public Relations and Commemoration Department, tel: 02-6751614.

Limited seating available

TENDERS

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The Israel Electric Corporation wishes to purchase the following goods/services:

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- The bidder must attach certification that the items offered in his bid conform with specifications, and an examination certificate in accordance with Standard 728, 532 of the Israel Standards Institute.
- The manufacturer must conform with specification ISO 9002.

Last date for submission of bids: May 25, 1997 at 11 a.m.

Additional Preconditions for tenders:

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Tender documents can be obtained from the Market Research and Tenders Department, 11 Shderot Pal Yam, Haifa on Mondays to Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 12 noon on presentation of a payment slip testifying that payment has been deposited in the account of the Israel Electric Corporation in a branch of the Postal Bank. (Payment will not be returned). Payment slips can be obtained at the above address or by telephoning 04-861-5455/4. Before purchasing tender documents they can be viewed at the offices of the Market Research and Tenders Department at the above address, or at the Tenders Unit at 90 Rehov Yigal Alon, Tel Aviv, Ashdod Building, Entrance 2, First Floor, phone 03-5654679 or 03-5654641 on Sundays to Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Bids must be submitted in closed envelopes and reach Tenders Box No. 1 in the Pal Yam Building in Haifa at the above address and not later than the above mentioned date.

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NOTE. In appropriate cases, the Electric Corporation will give preference to suppliers, in accordance with the Tenders Regulations (Preference for Locally Produced Goods, and Obligation to Extend Commercial Cooperation).

Our offices will be closed on the following dates:
Pessah: April 20 - 28 1997
Independence Day: May 12, 1997
Remembrance Day for the Fallen of Israel's Wars: May 11, 1997

Tory campaign ad revives party's split over Europe

By MAUREEN JOHNSON

LONDON (AP) — Renewed dissent overshadowed the Conservative government's fractious re-election campaign yesterday when two former foreign secretaries criticized a party ad caricaturing German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

The ad, showing opposition Labor Party leader Tony Blair as a ventriloquist's dummy on the knee of the burly Kohl, is part of Prime Minister John Major's latest tactic in the campaign for May 1 elections.

Major, trailing Labor by record margins, is seeking to close the gap by making safeguarding British sovereignty within the European Union a top issue.

A new union treaty, with Germany pressing for closer integration, is due to be finalized mid-June in Amsterdam.

Geoffrey Howe, who quit Margaret Thatcher's government in 1990 because of her strenuous resistance to closer integration, said it was a pity Major went along with the Kohl ad.

"It is disappointing that John Major should be obliged by people who would put party before nation to defend something of that kind," Lord Howe, now a member of the

upper House of Lords, said in an interview with *The Times* of London.

Hurd, foreign secretary until mid-1995 to Major, Lady Thatcher's successor, remarked that the ad "could have been better put." The interventions reflect alarm among Conservative pro-Europeans, mostly on the party left, at the increasingly anti-EU tone of the campaign.

About one-third of Conservative candidates have rejected a single European currency, starting in 1999. Major's policy, mirrored by Labor, is to wait-and-see and hold a referendum on any decision to join.

"This will be seen as the weekend in which the Conservative Party, divided as it was, became two parties at war with each other," said Labor's treasury spokesman Gordon Brown.

Politicians fanned out over the country, shaking hands in shopping malls, riding in open-air cars through regional towns, and knocking on suburban doors.

In Essex, a key county near London where blue-collar workers are swinging back to Labor, firemen staged a 24-hour strike — and the Conservatives said this was just a taste of things to come if Labor wins.

Britain's big labor unions have

poured several million pounds into Labor's campaign fund, and partly bankroll the party on a regular basis.

Outside their London headquarters, the Conservatives unveiled a new poster. "The unions are about to strike."

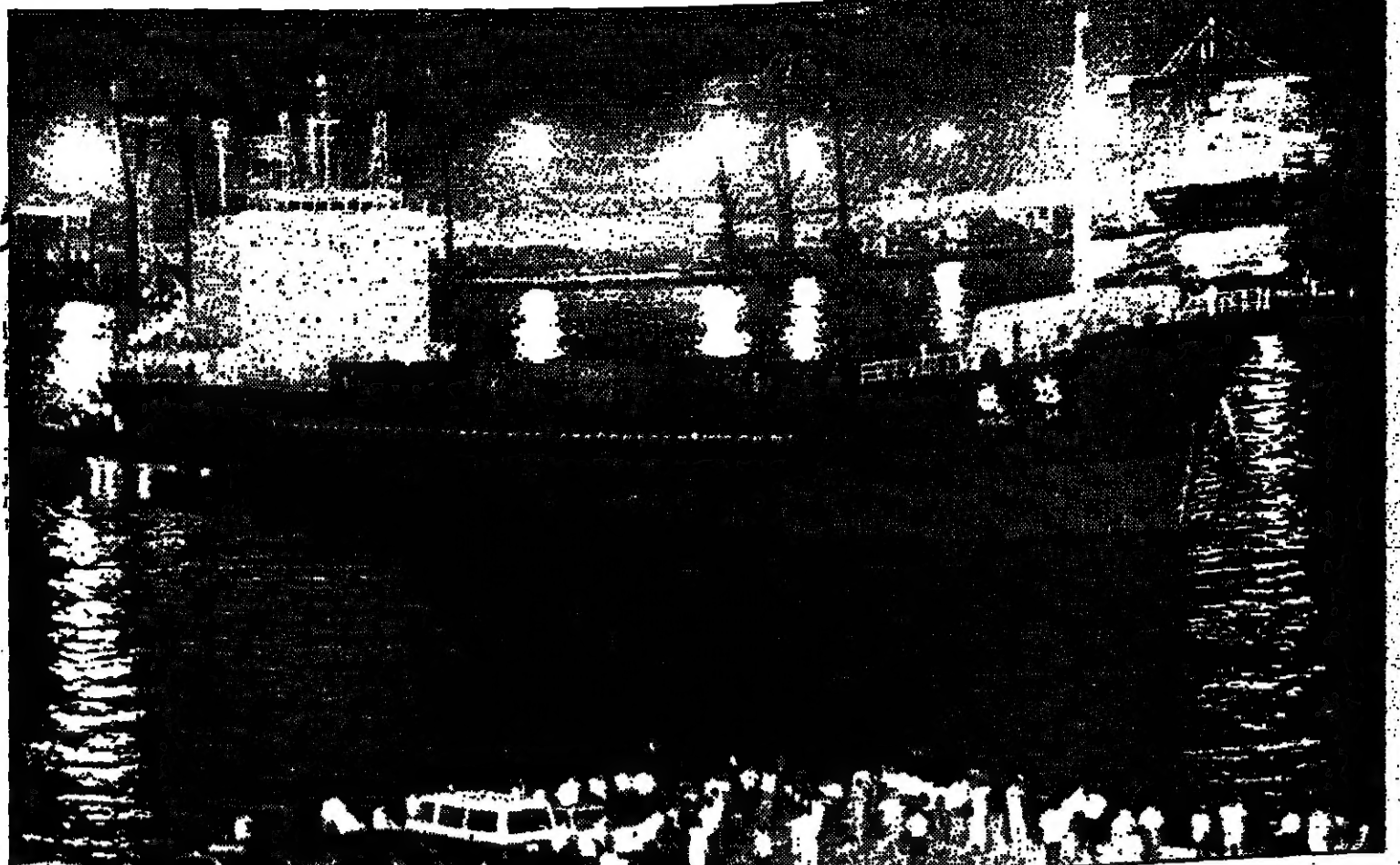
"The unions — they are Labor's campaign," said Deputy Prime Minister Michael Heseltine. "They are bankrolling them...paying today for the payoff tomorrow." Labor, now in the political center, has promised to ease some of the Conservative curbs on unions, but would still keep most of what are the toughest union laws in Europe. They include bans on sympathy strikes, mass picketing and stipulate secret pre-strike ballots.

Brown said Labor owed the unions no favors.

"The Labor Party will not be hijacked by any group at any time," he added.

A Gallup poll, published daily in London's *Daily Telegraph*, on yesterday showed Labor steady on 50 percent support — which would oust Major by a near landslide.

The Conservatives were one point up from Friday with 32 percent support, and the Liberal Democrats had 13 percent. The error margin was three percent.



The Chinese container ship 'Sheng Da' arrives at Taiwan's Kaohsiung port yesterday. The Chinese ship is the first to sail directly from China to Taiwan in over 40 years.

First Chinese ship sails to Taiwan

TAIPEI (AP) — The first Chinese ship to sail directly to Taiwan in 48 years arrived in the southern port of Kaohsiung yesterday, breaking a trade barrier between the island and the communist mainland.

The 5,000-ton Sheng Da docked after a 16-hour, 163-mile trip from the southern Chinese port of Xiamen. Kaohsiung Harbor officials said.

"It's a historic moment" for the thousands of Taiwanese companies that have invested in China, Chu Chih-yang, chairman of the Taiwan Business Association, said.

China considers Taiwan a renegade province, and Taiwan has banned air, sea and postal links with China since losing a civil war to the Communists in 1949. Their booming bilateral trade, totaling \$22 billion last year, mainly goes through the British

colony of Hong Kong.

Bowing to business pressure, Taiwan proposed limited shipping links two years ago. The vessels must be foreign-registered and cargoes delivered are only for transshipment to third countries.

Beijing initially ignored the proposal because of its anger over Taiwanese President Lee Teng-hui's visit to the United States in June 1995, which it viewed as pro-independence diplomacy.

When China relented, it agreed to open only two small southern ports, Xiamen and Fuzhou. It said it will not open up its main ports until Taiwan removes the restrictions.

In China, a dissident released from prison on medical parole has petitioned the head of the legislature for a reversal of the official condemnation of the 1989 Tiananmen pro-democracy

protests.

In his petition to Qiao Shi, chairman of the National People's Congress, Leng Wanbao also urged that former premier Zhao Ziyang, who was ousted for sympathizing with the protesters, be allowed to return to public life.

Defying the risk of further imprisonment, Leng called for the release of all demonstrators jailed after the June 3-4, 1989, suppression of the pro-democracy movement by troops who fired on the unarmed protesters.

"This is something I felt I had to do," Leng said in a telephone interview from his home in northeastern Jilin province.

Most active Chinese dissidents have been jailed or are in exile. Leng is one of the few to publicly challenge the government in recent months.

The 37-year-old former auto worker said he acted alone in

making his appeal.

Jailed in 1989, Leng served five years of an eight year sentence for "counterrevolutionary crimes" before his medical release in November 1994.

Leng appealed for the release of two ailing prisoners, former engineer Tang Yuanjun, and Li Wei, serving sentences of 20 years and 13 years respectively at neighboring Liaoning province's Lingyuan prison, a Hong Kong-based group, the Information Center of Human Rights and Democratic Movement in China, said in a statement.

Tang suffers from hepatitis and a lung ailment. Li has low blood pressure and has occasional fainting spells, it said.

So far, the ruling Communist Party has given no indication that it might reconsider its condemnation of the 1989 protests as "counterrevolutionary turmoil."

Oklahoma bombing reopens wounds

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — The day the nation's television stations broke into morning shows to show a nine-story Midwestern building — its front sheared off, gray smoke billowing from every crevice — is just a memory for most.

However, for thousands in Oklahoma City, and those drawn daily to a Colorado courtroom, the worst bombing in US history is being relived.

In Denver, some are nervous about redressing up the details of April 19, 1995. In Oklahoma City, the dust never settled for those who lost sons, daughters, husbands, wives, mothers, fathers and friends.

"It doesn't feel like two years," Maureen Bloomer said.

"I'm still trying to get my life together. Sometimes, it feels like just a month ago," Ms. Bloomer's father, Olen Bloomer, was working as a budget assistant for the US Department of Agriculture when the Alfred P. Murrah Building housing his office blew up shortly after 9

a.m. It took 16 days for his body to be pulled from the rubble.

"He was my best friend," said Ms. Bloomer, 31, whose mother died five years earlier. "I don't have a family anymore."

Cathy McCaskill's sister, Terry Rees, was at her job at the US Department of Housing and Urban Development that morning.

Mrs. McCaskill, 39, waited six days before her sister's body was found.

"With the trial coming up, it's kind of bringing it back up," Mrs. McCaskill said. "It's a place I don't want to go to in my mind. It really hurts. Others have gone on with their lives and we haven't — we're still stuck."

The usual thing to do is wait for time to fade away the memories of that morning and the loss of loved ones. But the door to that healing process slammed shut with the opening of the trial of Timothy McVeigh, the 28-year-old former soldier accused in the blast that took 168 lives.

News accounts of jury selection are a daily event. Coverage and details of the blast will only increase when testimony begins, and could continue unabated for months.

"I don't think people can really

begin closure until this trial is over," said Charlotte Lankard, assistant director of the Outpatient Counseling Center at Integris Baptist Medical Center in Oklahoma City. "Two years later, it's real." In Denver, some of what is happening seems surreal.

The trial, a missing Air Force warplane carrying four 500-pound bombs, and a mysterious threat against the nation's air defense agency have created an air of cautious concern across much of Colorado.

"It seems a funny coincidence that it all happens at once," said Marilyn Winders of Montrose, Colorado, who was visiting Denver over the weekend. "You kind of wonder if it's all tied together." At Colorado Springs, security was tightened and tours canceled at the North American Aerospace Defense Command on Wednesday because of an unspecified security threat.

Earlier this week, a man with a .357 handgun was arrested near the Denver courthouse, accused of making threats against the FBI. On the back of his pickup truck were bumper stickers that read "Sniper Bar and Grill, all you need is one shot" and "Keep your hands off my arms."

'No fingerprints on gun' in Cosby case

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Initial evidence reports turned over to the defense in the Ennis Cosby slaying show that there were "no fingerprints of value" on a gun recovered near the scene, an attorney said yesterday.

The lack of usable fingerprints could be the latest glitch in a case already troubled by the absence of an eye-witness identification of Michael Markhasev, 18, who is charged in the shooting death of entertainer Bill Cosby's son.

A key witness could not pick Markhasev out of a lineup.

Defense attorney Charles Lindner said the items turned over include evidence reports which state: "No prints of value observed on handgun." He said his office has received only the most preliminary discovery — the process of "sharing evidence — and much of it is on 'scraps of paper.'" Asked to comment, district attorney's spokeswoman Sandi Gibbons said, "We intend to try this case in the courtroom, not out-

side." Lindner said he is dismayed at the lack of evidence from the prosecution.

Gibbons said, "They have been given discovery that is available. They will be given more as it becomes available to us." Lindner said some documents had the names of witnesses blacked out. He said he also has not received coroner's autopsy reports which were subpoenaed earlier. The reports are needed, he said, to determine cause of death and point of entry of bullet wounds.

Police Chief Willie Williams has said that ballistics tests on a handgun found in brush near the killing scene showed the gun was used in the Jan. 16 killing. A knit cap also was retrieved from the area.

A tabloid tipster who first fingered Markhasev as a suspect helped police find the gun by pointing out the area a few miles from the crime scene.

Ennis Cosby, 27, was killed when he stopped

on a freeway off-ramp to change a flat tire on his Mercedes-Benz.

Markhasev, who was arrested March 12, has pleaded innocent to charges of murder with special circumstances of attempted robbery and use of a firearm during a crime. He was indicted by a grand jury April 11, but the indictment remains sealed pending arraignment.

Earlier, it was disclosed that a woman who was the key eye witness failed to pick Markhasev out of a police lineup.

Cosby was on his way to visit the woman when he got a flat tire. He called her to the poorly lit scene to shine her headlights so he could see more clearly as he changed the tire.

Police Chief Willie Williams confirmed the lineup reports but said it "should not in any way impede the investigation and the prosecution."

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The Golden Pages on CD Rom: Not likely to replace the printed phone book, but a great tool for direct marketing.

Let your mouse do the walking

By JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

Taklitor Zahav, Israel's nationwide phone listings in Hebrew, on CD-ROM, produced and marketed by Dapei Zahav (Golden Pages), NIS 135, including postage and handling (can be ordered by calling 177-022-3558; purchase entitles you to a future update at a 40% discount).

Rating: four stars out of five

One of the most annoying little tasks is looking up a lot of numbers in the phone book. Calling Bezeq's 144 information number costs the equivalent of three phone calls, and those with Web access can link up to the company's Internet site for free (at www.144.bezeq.com).

Golden Pages, which produces all the printed phone books, has for over a year been offering a CD-ROM with all the country's phone listings, but only in Hebrew. This latest version is updated to February 2, 1997.

When installing the disk, you have the option of also entering a program called PC Phone, which lets you dial any phone or fax number you click. Of course, this is useful only if you have a computer attached to a modem and a phone line, plus a telephone receiver connected to the computer if you want to speak over the phone.

The Golden Pages program is easy to use, although unfortunately it is only in Hebrew, not English or Arabic. You just click on a dialing code, and automatically all the cities, towns and settlements within this area appear in a column for you to select the appropriate one for your search. Alternatively, you can key in the area code and the location; then type in the name you wish to find.

You can enter only the last name or only the first few letters of the name and get a selection as well. There is a commercial listing for searching according to business or product category.

Once you find a name, define it and click a button for more details: there you'll see additional phone numbers listed for that entry, including fax and cellular phone numbers, if these are applicable. The address is given, including the postal code, which is very convenient. (My own address is listed, incorrectly, with the two names of the street switched, but this mistake appears in the printed phone book as well.)

The user can prepare a personal phone book merely by clicking all the entries he wants to register, and these can easily be printed out.

User-friendly as this program is, it is unlikely to replace the printed phone book. Turning on the computer, slipping in the CD-ROM and searching for a phone number involves more bother than looking

By JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

If one had to deposit into a time capsule only a single item about the Jewish People - its achievements and tragedies, history and hopes, tradition and nation-building - this disk of plastic would be it.

The authoritative *Encyclopaedia Judaica* has been transmuted from its two-dimensional printed text into three-dimensional multimedia, preparing it for the 21st-century public's demands and interests.

The single, PC-compatible CD-ROM contains the 15 million words that appeared in Keter Publishing's 16-volume 1972 edition, but the text in the most important of the 25,000 entries has been updated and expanded.

What makes the user-friendly \$599 disk a cause for celebration in the Jewish world is that this self-portrait has become exciting and alive, with the addition of sound, video films, photos and slide shows.

It will attract not only serious researchers collecting information from articles written by renowned experts, but also children and teenagers, uninitiated Jewish adults and the vast non-Jewish world beyond.

The massive project was undertaken by Judaica Multimedia (Israel) Ltd., a Jerusalem company established two years ago by Gary Leibler, a lawyer and accountant who immigrated seven years ago from Melbourne. The son of Isi Leibler, a leading Australian Jew who serves as vice president of the World Jewish Congress, he serendipitously met Moshe Heller, an Israeli distributor of Jewish books in the US, and discussed the downward trend of sales of the \$899 printed *Encyclopaedia*.

Contemplating the potential of turning the encyclopedia into a CD-ROM, the two approached Keter and negotiated the purchase of rights of the original encyclopedia, as well as the eight yearbooks and two decennial editions that have appeared over the last quarter century.

It was an awesome task for the 31-year-old Leibler, who had no professional training in computers or publishing but a great deal of daring and determination; he brought together a team of multimedia experts and archivists to advise him. "The computer people pushed for more multimedia images at the expense of text, while the archivists, of course, fought for a maximum of text. All the pressures were balanced out in the end," recalls Leibler. Deciding to produce the encyclopedia on a single disk - so that each word search would target all material in textual, visual and aural form - they were unable to include as much video,

15 million words of Jewish history on one disk



Gary Leibler shows off the CD-ROM version of 'Encyclopaedia Judaica,' a \$599 disk containing an updated 16-volume print edition - plus sound, video and photos.

Material from the yearbooks and decennial volumes had to be fully and painstakingly integrated into the regular text. Subjects that had been unknown or neglected in the printed volumes - such as the Dead Sea Scrolls, the Cairo Geniza, Jews in

remains frozen in 1967. "That's why we see this as a long-term project," explains Leibler. "We hope not only to update all information in subsequent editions, but also eventually to translate the disk into Hebrew, German, French and Spanish and put out a Macintosh version."

Aside from the 120 megabytes of text, which contains 100,000 hyperlinks (emphasized words that can be clicked to reach other references to them), there are thousands of Hebrew words that sound out their pronunciation.

An interactive timeline puts history into perspective, citing outstanding events and personalities in the Jewish and general world over the past four millennia and allowing instant searches. All of the text and photos can be printed out.

Leibler's team searched archives around the world and came up with rare recordings, films and photographs, some of which had never been made public before. Although disk users could chance upon these while reading the text and clicking icons, they can also go directly to the multimedia gallery. Special collections have been devoted to major subjects: the Bible in art, ritual

objects, Israel, American Jewry and the Holocaust.

There are a dozen narrated slide shows on a variety of themes, including the Israel Air Force, Pessah, Yiddish and Russian Jewish culture, Ethiopian Jewry and ancient Jerusalem. The 40-second video clips show General Allenby entering Jerusalem, Vilna before the Holocaust, David Ben-Gurion's independence speech, Einstein at Princeton, the Eichmann trial, Hebrew Jews, the Israel-Jordan peace agreement and Yitzhak Rabin's funeral.

"We regard ourselves as the Brianna of the Jewish world," Leibler concludes. "A prominent Hebrew University professor who saw the disk said it's a 'turning point in Jewish education.' It will also be Jewry's calling card to the rest of the world."

Grolier's, a US multimedia company, will distribute the CD-ROM among public libraries and universities in the US. Arrangements are being made for distribution in Jewish communities around the world. The Jerusalem Post's book department is selling the disk in a special offer.

An army of 2,000 Filipinos processed the material, typing each page twice to check for errors.

The Moslem world, Israeli and American Jewry, the Middle East peace process and the growth of the Orthodox and haredi communities needed special attention for the disk edition.

Still, not all of the material has been updated: a chart of the population of US Jewry, for example, still

HEALTH SCAN

Discovering key to antibiotic resistance

By POST HEALTH REPORTER

In the battle between man and bacteria, it seems bacteria have the winning edge. The number of organisms that are developing resistance to antibiotics is growing to alarming proportions. Now, a Weizmann Institute team has a better understanding of what causes this phenomenon.

Dr. Eitan Bibi of the Rehovot institute's biochemistry department, who worked with doctoral student Rotem Edgar, discovered a molecule that enables bacteria to resist a very wide range of drugs. Published in the latest issue of the *Journal of Bacteriology*, the information hints that it will become increasingly difficult to design effective new drugs against bacterial infections.

The newly identified molecule - named MdfA - could, however, serve as a model for the further understanding of multi-drug resistance and clarify its influence in human cancers, which results in tumor cells evicting chemotherapy drugs from the cells.

All living things have molecules that sit inside cell membranes and act as pumps, helping them to resist foreign substances with certain chemical properties such as those with a positive electrical charge or a tendency to attach to lipids.

MdfA allows bacterial cells to expel one of the widest ranges known of unrelated antibiotics and other drugs, says Bibi. "This means we are likely to find similar molecules in other bacteria."

The Weizmann researchers identified MdfA while studying multi-drug resistance in *Escherichia coli*, which can live harmlessly in the colon but cause serious infections if they reach other organs. Normally, they are killed off with large amounts of combined drugs. But when MdfA is present in large amounts, they are able to overcome even major onslaughts of drugs.

TELL ME WHY

Body fat and learning to swim

By JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

I am a man in my 40s, 1.94 meters tall. I have always had a great deal of trouble swimming. My legs keep sinking and pull me down. I am at the lower range of desired weight for my height. Do I have to gain a bit of weight to swim better? Aharon, Jerusalem.

Dr. Na'ama Constantin, family physician and sports medicine expert at Netanya's Wingate Institute for Physical Education, answers:

Swimming is one sports activity in which lean body mass is not an advantage. Fat produces more buoyancy. However, the ideal amount of fat for a swimmer is individual, depending on specific gravity and body shape. So, it's hard to say what your ideal percentage of fat should be to help you swim.

If you're not extremely thin, I wouldn't recommend that you gain weight to improve your swimming ability. You can go on a short swimming course to improve your technique, especially the use of your legs. This can hold up that end of your body better. There is also a float that you can wear on your legs to

keep them up, but then you'll have to exert your upper body much more, and will lose out on exercise for your legs, which is not a very good idea.

Unlike fat, which makes a swimmer float, muscles weigh swimmers down, but it depends where the muscles are. Swimmers have more fat than long-distance runners. This may be the explanation for why there are few excellent black swimmers, but many fine black runners. Their body type tends to be more

muscular in the limbs and this doesn't promote speed in swimming.

Have you always wondered about the scientific explanation for ordinary phenomena? Now you can get an answer. Mail your question to TELL ME WHY, The Jerusalem Post, P.O.B. 81, 91000 Jerusalem, fax it to (02) 538-9527, or send it by e-mail to justic@post.co.il. Please include your first name and place of residence.

NEW WORLDS

Bacteria as a solution for raw waste material

By POST SCIENCE REPORTER

A technique that will cause bacteria to munch on waste from the petrochemical industries has been refined at the Haifa Technion, offering an environmentally friendly solution to the problem of raw waste material that would otherwise contaminate the earth.

The petrochemical industries near Haifa have accumulated over 10,000 tons of such poisonous waste products without knowing how to dispose of them.

The first field study has ended and the research report was presented to the industries, the Environment Ministry and the Water Commission.

The sticky, oily contaminants are sediments from the process of separating crude oil from water in storage tanks.

Every year, approximately 600 more tons of the stuff are produced. If the material entered underground aquifers or the land, it would pose a serious danger to health and the environment.

The material could be transported to the Ramat Hovav dump near Beersheba, but this would merely be a shift of the problem from one location to another.

At the initiative of the petrochemical industries, Technion researchers sought a solution: a technique called bioremediation.

"This is a very simple idea," says Smadar Admon, a student in the faculty of agricultural engineering who is doing her doctorate on this subject. "The earth is rich in bacteria, some of which are able to decompose the contaminants."

The bacteria can feed on the waste products even more enthusiastically.

This technique is known abroad, but the climatic conditions found here allow maximum benefits as the bacteria thrive in warmer temperatures.

Prof. Yoram Avnimelech, who directs Admon in her project, notes that below the heaps of earth, wastes and bacteria is plastic sheeting that prevents poisons from reaching groundwater.

In addition, bacteria that are natural to the environment are used, so the ecological balance is not disrupted.

Once the petrochemical industries are convinced, he hopes all factories that produce such contaminants will adopt the technique, suiting the specific types of waste products to the type of earth in the area.

COURT RULINGS ON PLASTIC

More than 2,000 Israeli court rulings have been included in the latest version of Takkid, the CD-ROM of legal rulings issued by CDI Systems in March. The Jerusalem company won the public tender issued by the Justice Ministry and the court management, which have purchased copies of the disks for all state attorneys and all court levels.

The latest disk, which costs \$300 (plus VAT) for the first user and \$125 (plus VAT) for an update, now contains 35,000 court rulings. A special edition from last November will be available to law students for only NIS 100.

The new disk also contains over 4,000 legal terms, performing searches quickly and efficiently, plus all the state laws passed since 1949.

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Mobutu's last days

There seems little point in President Mobutu Sese Seko hanging on to power in Zaire. His days are numbered, politically at least, and he should simply spare his people any more anguish and go.

Unfortunately, dictators seldom see the writing on the wall until the wall collapses on top of them. In the case of Zaire, the wall with "time for change" writ large upon it goes by the name of Laurent Kabila. Some events seem to have the inexorable thrust of history behind them as they unfold. Kabila's triumphant run from north to south and now west across the huge country falls into that category. This is not a rebellion against the obnoxious Mobutu—it's a rout. If Mobutu intends to make a stand in the capital Kinshasa, it's a foolish idea. He can no more stand against the tide than the ancient King Canute or the more modern Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines. Nemesis is knocking at the gates of Kinshasa. Mobutu should slip out the back entrance before the people let in the new order.

It is true Kabila has publicly approved of a new bid by South African President Nelson Mandela to find a negotiated peace settlement. While it is unlikely he would deliberately make a fool of the world's favorite African statesman, there is considerable doubt that Kabila really means to negotiate with Mobutu. There seems no logical reason why he should. The country has been falling into his lap province by province and town by town, almost bloodlessly. Kabila needs not peace talks, but piece planning, to collect what remains of Mobutu's crumbled nation.

Kabila has said as much in clarifying what he meant by a peace process—he expects Mobutu to meet him only to talk about the ways and means he will relinquish power and disappear into obscurity. "There will be no protracted negotiations with Mobutu," said Kabila. "Never, never. Maybe we have been misunderstood. The issue is about transfer of power, otherwise we march on to Kinshasa."

Mandela would do well not to get his reputation

and credibility trapped between these two implacable foes. Kabila, although only recently coming to international (or even national) attention has been an opponent of Mobutu's rule since the latter took power in 1965. With Kinshasa now within his grasp after more than 30 years of preparation, Kabila is unlikely to let Mobutu slither out of the corner he has painted himself into.

Mobutu is a master of sly expediency, making concessions or deals with opponents when he has to, only to back out and renege at a later date when he has reasserted his grip on the army. Mobutu has grudgingly agreed personally to negotiate an end to the civil war but has given no sign he will yield to Kabila's demand that he quit office.

This simply won't wash with Kabila, and there remains the danger, as the rebel leader warned on Friday, that any battle for Kinshasa could be fierce and bloody. While most of Mobutu's army has collapsed across Zaire, he probably has enough loyal praetorians left with enough to lose to put up a last fight for it.

An indication of the dangerous situation was the chilling rumor that swept Kinshasa over the weekend saying that Mobutu planned to massacre the city's white expatriates in order to force foreign intervention. Although his son publicly denied the stories as rebel disinformation, nobody who remembers the bloody civil war of the 1950s in Congo-Katanga as the country then was, would dismiss any possibility out of hand.

Kabila remains an unknown quantity as a future ruler, but it is seems inevitable that it is to be his destiny. Zaire may live to regret it—but at this juncture, the most important thing must be to get the uncertainty over with. Since he holds most of the country, Kabila should swiftly finish the job and march on Kinshasa. Hopefully, the city will consider itself "liberated" and welcome the inevitable without bloodshed. The quicker Mobutu is given his one-way ticket to obscurity, the better for Zaire and the image of all Africa.

Fractious India

India is always proud of its catchline "the world's biggest democracy." Biggest yes, greatest no. The fractious goings on of the last few weeks may point to a noisy and vigorous democracy, or they may point to a corrupt and wheeler-dealing parliament gone badly astray.

Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda was thrown out of office after only 10 months in government, ousted on April 11 by a no-confidence vote. The squabbling ruling coalition yesterday named the respected foreign minister Inder Kumar Gujral as the new prime minister—the third government India has had since elections last year left no party with a clear parliamentary majority and putting the country seemingly in competition with Italy for collapsing governments and national paralysis. The hung parliament has had little concern for running the

country but has instead been a snakepit of elbowing and jockeying for power.

Gujral, a foreign affairs expert and long considered prime ministerial material, is undoubtedly a good choice but Indian politics seems beyond anything any one man can do. Even as he was appointed with general approval, it seemed more squabbling would erupt. Most seriously, a hard-won consensus on sweeping budget proposals that business leaders had hailed as pro-investor is crumbling swiftly.

Indian politicians would do well to stand back from the fray and take a long hard look at where they are leading their country as Hindu nationalism rages through the political chaos. Fifty years after gaining independence, Indians would do well to ask what being the world's biggest democracy really means. Or if it means anything.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

OVERDUE ACTION

Sir, — Now that the Oslo process that began in 1993 is rapidly approaching its inescapable denouement (that is, creation of a terrorist state west of the Jordan and/or a war), it is time for the government to take a long overdue action.

The first thing that this government should have done upon taking office was to appoint a non-political, blue-ribbon panel of experts to ascertain the legal status of the Oslo Agreements in the framework of both Israeli and international law. The decisions of such a panel would have served as guidelines to determine the extent of Israel's obligations and commitments. Further, such a panel would have resolved the

question of the legal culpability, if any, of those responsible for the agreements, many of whom are still active in public life.

Israel is a society which professedly prides itself on its adherence to law. Millions of shekels and thousands of man-hours are being consumed on an investigation (Bar-On/Hebron) in which the public has lost interest and the authorities have apparently forgotten what the issue is all about. It would be proper to expend at least the same effort to clarify an issue which affects all of our lives and the very future of the state. It is the public's right to know.

JAY SHAPIRO

Ginot Shomron.

EDUCATION TOWARD TOLERANCE

Sir, — Your article of April 8 on the Arab-Jewish kindergarten that was recently opened at the YMCA in Jerusalem was a heart-warming example of how the peace process can succeed. Such projects should be supported and encouraged by all of us who know that education is the first step in breaking down negative stereotypes, especially among young children.

But projects dedicated to educating Jewish and Arab pre-schoolers toward tolerance, egalitarianism and pluralism have been in existence for over two decades in Israel. Before the politicians traveled to Camp David, Madrid or Oslo, Na'amat opened the Shalom Jewish-Arab Day Care Center in Jaffa. Yael Ben-Shahar, director of the center from the beginning, was dedicated to the concept that the

center would be bilingual and that the staff as well as the children would be from both the Arab and Jewish communities. The center has become a model for coexistence between Arab and Jewish children, parents and grandparents. Children and their families maintain contact with the center long after they have "graduated." Moslem, Christian and Jewish holidays are celebrated with traditional music, food, art and story-telling. After more than two decades of operation, a generation of graduates are raising their children with the values which they learned as pre-schoolers.

SHARON SHENHAV,
Director, Overseas Division,
Na'amat

Tel Aviv.

PARDONS

Sir, — Yosef Goell ("The right to revenge," March 21) writes about Yair Levy that "Levy is apparently none the worse for wear from serving his sentence in full."

Yair Levy, a former Shas MK, a convicted embezzler, a man who violated the terms of his community service, did not serve out his full sentence. He was released early as incredible as it sounds, for "good behavior."

ELI RUDEN

Ra'anana.

Yosef Goell comments:
It may be regrettable, but paroling prisoners who have served two-thirds of their sentence "for good behavior" is standard procedure.

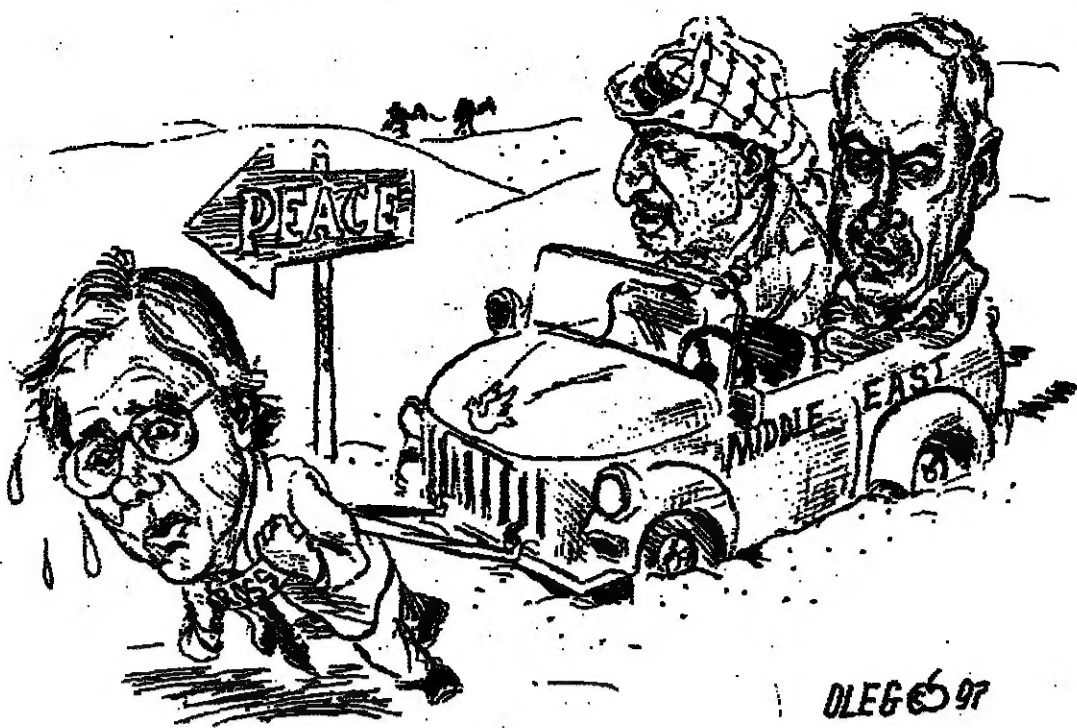
ACT OF AGGRESSION

Sir, — In The Jerusalem Post of April 9, you report that our Foreign Minister, David Levy, "listened with a stony face" when Turkish Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan rained criticism on Israel for not withdrawing from lands it has occupied for years.

Why didn't Levy retort that Turkey should withdraw from Northern Cyprus which was occupied by Turkey? This blatant act of aggression has not been recognized by any country in the world, yet the issue largely remains forgotten. The West Bank, Sinai and the Golan were captured as a result of aggression instigated against Israel; surely we have the right to use these territories as a bargaining tool to ensure that we are not attacked in the future.

BRIAN ZIETMAN

Jerusalem.



The freedom of ideas

DAVID NEWMAN

Friday marked the end of the three-month period since Ze'ev Begin resigned from the post of science minister and the academic community is still awaiting the appointment of a full-time successor.

As a cabinet minister, Begin was unique in that he did not allow his political views to intervene in his conduct of policy concerning the development and expansion of scientific enquiry and research.

Since the Netanyahu administration came to power, the academic establishment has been attacked several times by government ministers. In an interview with Ha'aretz last November for example, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu accused the academic community of not allowing a full and free debate of different viewpoints.

At the time, he stated that he would support the establishment of alternative institutes of higher education in which these viewpoints would be given full airing. It is possible that Netanyahu's views concerning the academic community have been influenced by his own personal experience.

His father, a noted historian, has argued that the reason he left Israel to reside for a long period of time in the US was that he was unable to obtain tenured employment at one of the Israeli universities owing to his political background and personal views. Moreover, Netanyahu's own book on terrorism has not been greeted with the same enthusiasm among the academic community as it has in some diplomatic and political circles.

It would not be farfetched to suggest that these experiences have created a personal image of an academic community which is highly politicized and leans strongly to one side of the political spectrum.

This is not a new theme. We have heard it all before: The established universities are full of left-wing intellectuals who support the Palestinian cause and are not, implicitly, sufficiently faithful to the "national" cause. The stereotype is further enhanced by their collective portrayal as being secular, post-Zionist, and too open to the universal ideals of human rights and equality, as opposed to the exclusive rights of the Jewish people.

The right wing has always had it in for academics and the media. It

has constantly sought to delegitimize and to silence ideas which challenge the accepted hegemony of the Jewish state and which raise uncomfortable questions concerning the Jewish-Arab relationship.

Since the right does not have the answers, it is always much easier to simply dismiss the proponents of new ideas as being anti-Zionist and not sufficiently loyal to the state.

But herein lies a paradox. During the past two years, the only group of academics which has publicly organized into a political group has been the ultra-right Professors for a Strong Israel. It has taken out full-page advertisements in the press decrying the evils of the Rabin and Peres governments. Its members use their status as academics to sell the political message with

Academics should not be subject to government dictates

which they identify. During the past six months, a group of these academics has held several public meetings with the prime minister as a statement of their political affiliations and identity.

THE Israeli academic community is as pluralistic as the rest of society. There is a survey of political affiliations to be conducted. It is likely that the humanities and social sciences would display a large majority for the left, as contrasted with right-wing attitudes among a large number of those engaged in the natural and more exact sciences.

While this is by no means an out and out correlation — there are plenty of social science professors who identify with the right and vice versa — this does point to a general tendency among academics.

Why should this be the case? I would suggest that it is partially due to the fact that the exact sciences require absolute answers. There can be no question marks or alternatives.

Positivist modes of enquiry require that one answer be right and that all other answers be wrong. This is similar to the right-wing way of political thinking.

There can be no question marks or unanswered questions. Everything is black-and-white — the Oslo Accords are national suicide; the world hates us; we are alone and should not delude ourselves into thinking that we can make treaties with former enemies, who wish nothing other than our destruction.

Not only do the social sciences and humanities allow for questions to remain unanswered, they actually promote this form of thinking. In the life of humans, as contrasted with particles and neutrons, there are no absolutes. Human behavior is not black-and-white. Rather it is many shades of grey which can change with the passage of time, or as a response to different social and political situations.

Changed political circumstances raise new questions which can not be answered by a simple yes or no. To prove their efficacy, they have to be allowed to work their way through a passage of time and experimentation. Such is the historical evolution of society as we know it.

And again, many social scientists have to deal directly, in their research and teaching, with issues of current or historical political concern. Each day of enquiry reveals new documents, new interpretations of political and military events, which then have to be translated into reality.

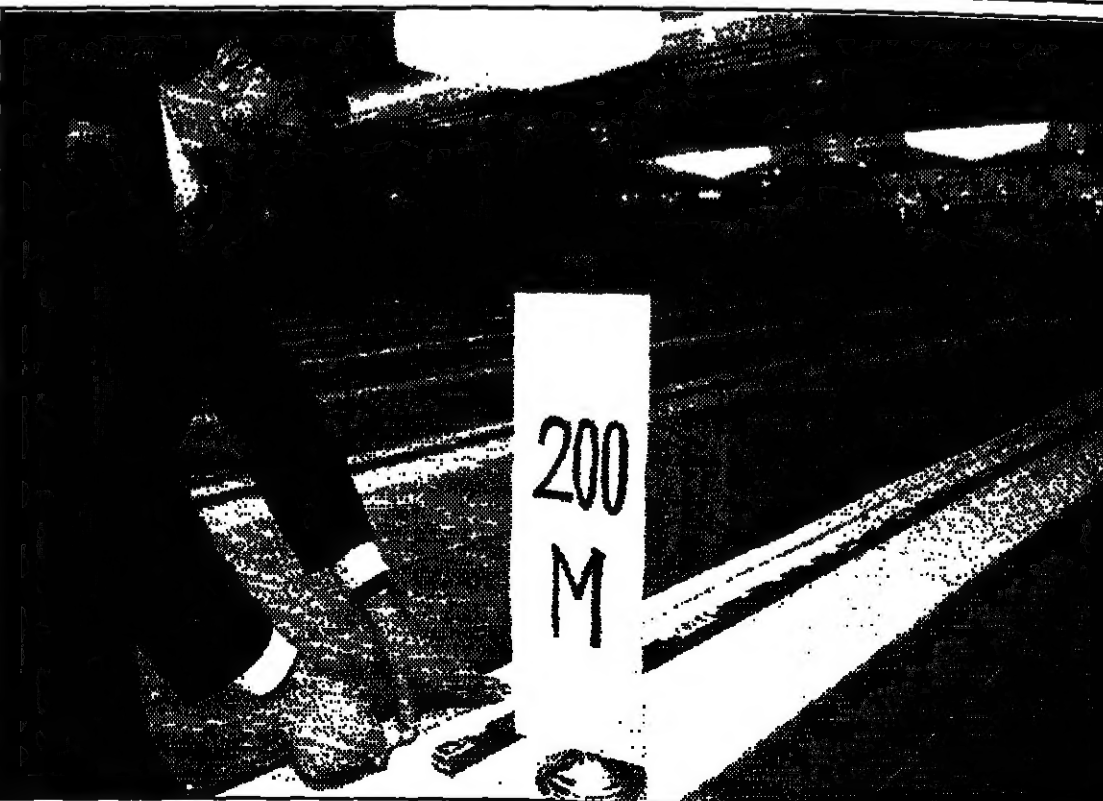
A simple example: Government documents from the late 1940s call into question the nature of the Palestinian refugee problem. But those who use these documents to show that we were not as "pure" as we have always been taught to believe, are branded as left-wing, post-Zionist intellectuals.

It is this form of discussion which the new government is attempting to replace with its own official version of Zionist history and politics.

If we are to prevent this Orwellian future from taking place, we must act to ensure the total freedom of academic expression. We must reject all forms of academic manipulation by a government which is afraid, perhaps incapable, of dealing with the burning social and political questions of the day.

The writer is professor of political geography and director of the Humphrey Institute of Social Research at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



Chocololics, freak out! This is the world's longest piece of chocolate, measuring 221 meters long, and 3 cm wide. The praline chocolate bar, prepared by Swiss confectionery Sprüngli, was prepared on a serpentine arrangement of tables. After the Guinness people asserted the record of 182 meters had been beaten, the chocolate was chopped up into pieces and distributed free to 500 people. But if you ask us, the record shouldn't count unless they can make a wrapper the same size.

(AP)

The Israeli singularity

A.M. ROSENTHAL

In the part of the world known as the Middle East exist about 20 countries. Of these, in only one does the ruling authority recognize and submit to higher national powers — the public and the law.

Only in that nation are rulers elected by the public, subject to recall by the public and to laws laid down by judicial and legislative processes approved by the public. That country is Israel, of course.

"Of course" — the words tell us a great deal about the crisis in which Israel is living.

Within Israel it is understood and accepted that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu will live or die politically by decision of the law — not his speeches, not his army, not his charisma, not the landslide Jewish majority that elected him, but the law.

The rule of the law is not simply accepted by Israelis, but understood as central to their desires and national lives, to be maintained, even when it hurts like a knife in the side.

"Of course" — the words also tell us that outside Israel too it is understood that Israel is unique in the Mideast. What they do not tell us is why that singularity, and how it coincides with Western interests and what are supposed to be Western ethics, are ignored or dismissed routinely in the United States. That we will just have to figure out for ourselves.

By today, Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein is expected to decide whether to indict Netanyahu on police charges that he was guilty of fraud by having appointed Roni Bar-On, a political hack, as attorney-general.

In the splintered mess of Israeli politics, handing out jobs in return for support in the Knesset is part of the scene, like not wearing jackets.

Netanyahu's supporters point out that the police say the only evidence comes from one man,

The one country in the region accountable to the law

who wanted Bar-On's job. Netanyahu's friends say he will not be indicted, as strenuously as his enemies hope he will. For myself I learned long ago that journalistic predictions are safe to make six months beforehand, even a few weeks, but a couple of days never.

THEORETICALLY, if indicted Netanyahu can stay on as prime minister as long as there is no guilty verdict at a trial. But tradition would be against him. One of his appointees resigned when indicted. And in 1977 Yitzhak Rabin resigned as prime minister after his wife left open a \$16,000 bank account in the US that under Israeli regulations should have been closed.

If he is indicted and resigns, an election would be held to choose a successor. Three months for the investigation, less than a week given to the attorney-general to make up his mind. Israelis think that is terribly long, can you imagine. What's all this got to do with Western attitudes toward Israel? Why, nothing at all if you think peace in the Mideast has nothing to do with the kind of governments that rule the region.

But if, as a Western president or prime minister, you happen to remember that millions died in the war between the Iraqi and Iranian dictatorships, that Iraq invaded the Kuwaiti dictatorship, that the Syrian dictator colonized Lebanon, that the Libyan dictator carries out terrorism against neighbors and faraway countries, that three times Arab dictators attacked Israel, all without cracking a law book or consulting their people, you might think about the difference in the attack rates between democracies and dictatorships.

And if as a Western leader you believed that the dictators who lead their nations into war will be around for a very long time, you might have another thought. You might think that you should stop putting the interests of those dictatorships above the interests and security of the one country in the region that is accountable to the people and the law, even when it hurts like a knife in the side.

(Courtesy of The New York Times.)

The military's maestro

Uriel Heilman meets the man who has conducted the IDF Orchestra for the last 35 years

As IDF orchestra conductor Yitzhak Garciano recalls his first days as a fledgling musician in Israel, he settles back into the leather chair in his office at a Tel Aviv military base with a smile on his face. After his release from military service shortly after his arrival in the country in 1948, he remembers, "my wife made me stop playing nightclubs, so I took a job teaching music at a school." Since then, he has rarely turned down a gig.

At age 72, Ziko, a Bulgarian-born Garciano, is universally called by all who know him, has been the head of the IDF orchestra for 35 years. Before he assumed the position of permanent conductor in 1962, Ziko worked with youth orchestras, became the musical director of a popular radio show called *Tavat Naar*, and wrote music for local films and musicals, affording him the opportunity to work with now-famous Israeli musicians, including Yehoram Gaon, Shlomo Artzi and Arik Einstein.

Ziko's first push toward music in the military was at a performance in the years following the founding of the state. It was the first time that the anthem of the pre-state underground Lehi, "Hayalim Almonim," was played for a general audience.

He describes his initial nervousness and excitement as the sounds of the tune began to reverberate that night through the Tel Aviv auditorium; he was apprehensive about how the audience would react. When the piece was finished, the audience gave its resounding approval with a standing ovation for Ziko and the orchestra. Several days later, he received a letter of appreciation from the wife of Avraham "Yair" Stern, the head of the Lehi. "Until today people tell stories about it," he boasts.

Ziko was a member of the IDF orchestra during his regular military service a decade before he took the job as permanent conductor with the IDF.

During his service, he spent his days playing in the largely Bulgarian 70-member IDF orchestra and his nights in a house in Jaffa, which he shared with several Arabs.



Yitzhak Garciano, called by all that know him as Ziko, recalls playing during wartime: "Wherever we found soldiers, we played."

At the time, his wife and daughter were living in an old Arab house given to them by the Jewish Agency in the abandoned Arab village of Kawasa, near Haifa.

"Times were different then," he notes. The IDF orchestra often serves as a motivating force for the soldiers on front lines. Ziko remembers the days of heavy fighting during the Yom Kippur War in 1973, when members of the orchestra would wake up at 4:30 a.m. and begin performing as early as

6. "Wherever we found soldiers, we played," he says.

Opposite Ziko's chair is a photograph of the 500-strong Armored Corps chorus of the Yom Kippur War. "I always look at the picture and I don't know what happened to them," he says with a sigh. "I don't know how many lived past that war."

ON OCTOBER 29, 1973, Armored Corps Day, Ziko was intent on performing for the

tank units, even though they were poised on the battle lines at the Suez Canal. The orchestra began its journey under cover of night, and when the members crossed the Suez Canal shortly after daybreak, they met soldiers who were still in a state of shocked grief, having already lost friends and comrades in battle.

"We weren't sure what to play," he explains, describing the somber mood. So the orchestra began with emotional songs, opening with "Jerusalem of Gold" and "Lu Yehi" with instrumentalists crying along with the soldiers. "Slowly, slowly we began to slip happy songs in," recalls Ziko, and soon the audience was clapping enthusiastically and singing along to the music.

Ziko describes how a general once erupted in fury at him for playing on the border in the days before the Six Day War. "You are gathering soldiers, and the Syrians are watching us from the Hermon," he yelled. It's true. It was a concentration of soldiers, and they could have blown us all up," Ziko concedes.

Today the orchestra's repertoire includes over 3,000 songs, with which players must be familiar without rehearsal. Taking a heavy binder off his shelf, Ziko points out a list of the 478 appearances of the IDF orchestra in 1995: concerts, parades, ceremonies, and private affairs for both the military and civilians. Occasionally, they even get invited to perform abroad, though Ziko says he can't bear to stay away from Israel for long.

Every year, some 400 hopeful youngsters try out for the 18 to 20 orchestral spots that open up.

"Our people are the best," insists Ziko, recalling a recent phone conversation in which someone said he was sending him the best trumpeter in Afula.

"Afula?" cries Ziko. "I told him, 'I take the best trumpeters in the country.'"

The intensive regimen for the soldiers in the IDF orchestra, who Ziko insists work just as hard as other soldiers in the military, includes an intensive, two-year course in which men complete 2,160 hours and women 1,600 hours. Many graduates of the program go on to careers in the music world. According to Ziko, half of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra came from the IDF orchestra.

Ziko notes there is an increase in the proportion of women in the orchestra, which he attributes to males' lack of patience with instruments that require diligent practice.

Ziko, who will soon be a great-grandfather, has every intention of continuing as conductor. "I'll be here as long as they need me."

Not Page One

My fellow Jerusalemites...

By Sam Orbaum

I don't understand what they're going on about. So what if we do give Jerusalem to the Arabs? It's the only way to keep the haredim from getting it.

(Now I've done it. No self-respecting Jew will ever read this column again.)

Maybe it doesn't mean much to you folks living in Ra'anana or Haifa, but we Jerusalem taxpayers are getting squeezed. And like a pimple pinched from either side, eventually we're going to be forced out.

This is one of those radical predictions that make journeymen journalists look smart, because it's going to happen. Sure, today you can dismiss me as a crackpot, but cut out this column and tape it to your fridge, and in 15 years read it again. Jeez, you'll say, he was right.

Not from nowhere did I dredge this stuff up. Research by the Jerusalem Institute of Israeli Studies shows:

- that by the year 2010, Jerusalem will be a third haredi, a third "non-Jewish" (that is to say, Arab), and a third secular;
- that the secular 33 percent will be further reduced because they'll be fleeing en masse;
- that the process is already well under way: today, more than one-half of all Jerusalem children in kindergarten and grades 1 and 2 are haredim;
- that without the secular sector, the city will become impoverished;
- that there's not much we can do about it.

I remember reading in the paper, years back, that somebody harangued prime minister Yitzhak Shamir about the population balance being threatened by the burgeoning Arab birthrate. Shamir's baleful response was the funniest thing I ever heard him say: "So what do you want me to do about it?"

Likewise, if Jerusalem's haredim are determined to conceive a haredit every eight or nine months, I don't believe there's anything I can do to stop them. (There is a solution, of course: that I and my ilk can counterbalance the phenomenon by producing three babies every eight or nine months, but don't even suggest it.)

A cruder man than myself might propose that the haredim and the Palestinians leave the rest of us out of it, and determine for themselves the future of the city, say, by throwing stones at each other from opposite sides of Bar-Ilan Street, yelling "God is great" in their respective tongues, but I won't.

In our usual, quiet, futile way, we'll just let nature take its destructive course. The Palestinians will do their thing, the haredim theirs - and we ours, namely, surrendering to fear and frustration and disillusion.

sionment, by getting the hell out. I've already been through this once, as an English-speaking, federalist Quebecois, and I'm damned if I'm going to be a refugee again.

The benevolent fascists of Quebec, the fundamentalist zealots of Mea She'arim and the authoritarianist mobs of "Palestine" all share one disturbing principle: they do not tolerate plurality, human and civil rights, ethnicity, the various freedoms. (Yeah, I'm just as intolerant, but the difference is, my intolerance is of intolerance.)

It goes without saying that there are separatists, haredim and Palestinians who oppose the extremism of their brethren, but the problem is, in any such society in revolutionary transition, it is not the enlightened, rational and conciliatory types who lead.

If something is to be done about the future of this mad town, now's the time; 2010 is only 13 years away.

Nothing will be done, of course, at least until it becomes a sustained public or political issue.

So let's get the ball rolling: I'll propose a plan - any old plan - and with a bit of luck the critical condemnation will slowly filter up to the political echelon, which will spark debate, which will win the issue both credibility and urgency. (Hey, it sometimes works - remember the transfer controversy?)

Introducing ... The NP1 Plan: Make Jerusalem an international city (read that again: I did not say international). It shall consist of three self-supervised cantons plus Everyman's Land, the Old City. If the haredim want to throw dirty diapers at policemen, it'll be at their own policemen, and it'll be their own garbage men who pick 'em up; if the Arabs want to burn tires in the streets, let their own civic leaders douse the fires of unrest; if the seculars want to wallow in godless hedonism, it's their right to raise their children with whatever lack of values they choose. The crux of the plan is that by the year 2110, we'll all realize we need each other, and Jerusalem will be reunited.

You're right, it's a stupid idea. Got a better one?

See You! Not Page One offers readers a shot at glory or ridicule, with an open discussion on the subject in a future column. What's your solution for the future of Jerusalem? Be practical, impractical, funny or serious - but be brief. Who knows? Maybe you'll inspire some visionary politician.

Send your thoughts to Sam Orbaum, The Jerusalem Post, POB 81, Jerusalem 91000, by fax to (02) 531-5622 or by e-mail to sam@jpost.co.il. Please include your name and phone number, and specify if you don't want your full name published.

DEAR RUTHIE

By RUTHIE BLUM

Dear Ruthie, When I made aliya many years ago, I made several close friends with other Americans. But, in the last three years, they all left Israel

or are in the process of doing so. I feel completely at a loss. These friends are the only "family" I've got here.

It's the first time since I came to Israel that I've been seriously considering leaving, though this is not an ideal solution either. My husband and I both have good jobs and our children have all of their friends here. I really don't think

they would be happy to be uprooted. I am feeling very down, particularly since it is holiday time and I realize that by next Pessah ours will be the only family in our circle remaining.

Do you have any suggestions to help me stop feeling so lonely? Down in the Dumps and Feeling Dumped Somewhere in Israel

Dear Down in the Dumps, Separation anxiety is as common as the cold. It is natural to feel at a loss when people you are close to begin to move away. But when this kind of sadness feels like depression, it is usually because of deeper emotions being aroused. The "desperation" you are experiencing - causing you to fantasize following your friends - may have to do with fears of abandonment. Every person suffers this to some extent and has primitive reminders of being separated from his mother for the first time. And just as young children learn to cope with this difficulty, so too do most adults adjust to separation.

One way of adjusting is to actively pursue new friendships. Another is to undergo a kind of "mourning" period, withdrawing for a while from other people until reaching the point of readiness to see that there are other "fish in the sea."

I cannot suggest what method best applies to you. However, one practical suggestion always relevant to "loss" of some sort is: take the opportunity to engage in, indulge in, or partake of, things which got neglected because they didn't fit in with the lifestyle you had with these friends.

Ironically, it is often our occupation with people close to us that most causes us to toss aside all kinds of things we actually enjoy doing.

Dear Ruthie, My girlfriend is a very attractive and intelligent woman. The trouble is that she is not very "fond" of the bedroom. She acts as if the physical side of a relationship is a necessary pill to swallow, rather than an integral part of healthy relations which she should want to fulfill. In other words, she is very compatible with me. I am uneasy about talking to her about what is bothering me. How can I bring it up without seeming intrusive?

Bedroom Bothered Eilat

Dear BB, Your girlfriend's attitude/behavior in the bedroom may be a sign of inexperience or inhibition. If so, time and patience will bring about a change.

On the other hand, she may have a greater problem, stemming from her childhood, or even more recent past, which hinders her sexuality. If so, the only way she will be able to change is if she desires to do so and if she admits to herself that she has a problem.

You are right to be careful about how you breach the subject. But, if she has a problem, it is liable to affect your relationship in the future.

As such, you need to ask yourself whether the other ways in which she is compatible with you compensate for this particular area, for long enough for you to work on assisting her to assist herself.

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HEADS 'N TAILS

Caring for pets during the summer

By D'VORA BEN SHAUL

Summer is right around the corner and we are well advised to get ready for it. This includes paying attention to the needs of our pets. Not only is summer the season of ectoparasites such as ticks and fleas, a subject we have dealt with extensively in previous columns, but also a time to remember to groom pets regularly.

As the weeds and grasses dry out, they are loaded with different types of seeds. Some of these seeds are usually dispersed by attaching themselves to the pelts of animals which then carry them to new places. Since many of these seeds can cause serious problems to pets, it is most important to keep the pet free of seeds. This is less of a problem in cats because they do a good job of removing them from the coat by themselves. But even cats need a hand now and then, especially when the burr or seed is in a place that the cat cannot easily reach.

The main problem here is dogs, and of all dogs the most easily harmed are those with long sweeping ears such as cocker spaniels and many of the hunting breeds. Grass seeds that attach to the fur on the ears often manage to get inside the ear and cause serious problems.

The seeds of many grasses are so designed that they actually burrow into the soil due to an arrangement of small scales or spicules along their awns. This means that the seed can move freely only in one direction. When such a seed gets into a dog's ear, it keeps mov-

ing along, often reaching the middle and even the inner ear. When this happens, it is usually necessary for a veterinarian to remove the seed and sometimes the dog has to be anesthetized in order to perform the procedure. Serious infections often result; they can be fatal.

Always groom dogs as soon as they come in from an area where they will have been walking in grasses and weeds. Remove all burrs and grass seeds from the pelt and pay special attention to the ears. In only a few hours, a grass seed at the edge of the ear can be deep inside and already out of sight. This is usually manifested by the animal pawing at the ear, holding the head to one side with the bothersome ear on the down side and repeated shaking of the head and ears. When this is noted, it almost always means either a foreign body or an ear infection, both of which need immediate attention.

Make sure that animals have plenty of fresh water to drink at all times, especially in the summer. If you travel with a dog take a water dish along to offer fresh water when you stop. And remember, never leave a dog in a car in the summer, not even for a short time. Many dogs die every year from being left in parked vehicles.

Don't yield to the temptation to clip off a dog's fur in order to "keep it cool." Dogs do not sweat through the skin and clipping actually makes them hotter since their insulation against the heat is gone. Give them plenty of water and a shady area to be in and they will be much better off.



TOE-TO-TOE - Manchester United's Andy Cole (r) battles Liverpool's Bjorn Tore Kvarme for the ball in yesterday's action at Anfield. United won 3-1.

United top Liverpool

League-leaders go 5 points clear with 3-1 away win; Arsenal's title hopes suffer setback with draw at Blackburn

LONDON (AP) - Manchester United romped into a five-point atop the Premier League standings yesterday after a 3-1 victory at second place Liverpool thanks to two headers by centerback Gary Pallister and blunders by goalkeeper David James.

Arsenal squandered a chance to cut the lead to three points when it was held 1-1 at home by Blackburn but it still dropped Liverpool down to third place on goal difference.

After its 20th victory from 34 games, United now has 69 points with four to play including the last three at home and appears well on course for its fourth title in five seasons.

Arsenal and Liverpool have 64 with three to play. Even if United win the league again, there is still a meaningful battle for second place which now guarantees the runner up a place in the European Champions Cup along with the title winner while the third place team goes into the UEFA Cup.

Pallister exposed some poor marking in the Liverpool defense and slacked goalkeeping by James to head United's first two goals from corners in the 12th and 42nd minutes, sandwiching a header by John Barnes for the home team in the 19th.

Andy Cole headed the third in the 63rd after James had left his line and completely missed a right wing cross.

Former England captain David Platt gave Arsenal a 19th minute lead at Highbury but Gary Filcroft's equalizer for Blackburn in injury time robbed the Gunners of two points they badly needed in the title race.

Ironically, 1995 titlist Blackburn is the only team to stop United winning the title in the past four seasons.

Newcastle remained in fourth place with a 3-1 victory over Derby with goals from Robbie

Elliott and England stars Les Ferdinand and Alan Shearer.

Tobago striker Dwight Yorke scored an equalizer nine minutes from time as Aston Villa gained a 1-1 tie with Tottenham and stayed fifth. Swiss international Ramon Vega netted for Spurs.

Sixth place Sheffield Wednesday remained in contention for a UEFA Cup place by downing Wimbledon 3-1 at Hillsborough, with two goals coming from Orlando Trustfull.

FA Cup finalist Chelsea moved above Wimbledon to seventh by edging League Cup winner Leicester 2-1 despite having six top players, including Gianfranco Zola, missing from the starting lineup.

Scott Minto and Mark Hughes scored the goals and Zola made an appearance as substitute 20 minutes from the end.

At the bottom, a goal by Middlesbrough-born Darren Williams lifted Sunderland out of the relegation zone after a 1-0 win at Middlesbrough, which remains second from last. Boro rested Brazilian star Juninho in the first half because of a knee injury but his appearance after the break still didn't produce a goal.

It made it a tough week for Bryan Robson's team who lost to Leicester in the League Cup final but can bounce back by reaching Wembley for the second time this season by beating Chesterfield on Tuesday in an FA Cup semifinal replay.

Nottingham Forest stayed last after being held 1-1 at home by Leeds and West Ham dropped back into the bottom three by losing away a 2-0 lead and managing only a 2-2 tie at home to Everton.

PREMIER LEAGUE

GP	W	D	GF	GA	Pts
Man United	34	20	9	59	69
Aston Villa	35	18	10	7	58
Liverpool	35	18	10	7	58
Newcastle	34	17	9	57	60
Aston Villa	35	16	9	54	57
Sheff Wed	34	14	6	47	56
Chelsea	35	14	10	55	54
Wimbledon	34	13	10	45	49
Southampton	35	12	7	41	47
Leeds	35	11	10	42	37
Everton	36	10	12	44	52
Derby	35	10	12	34	42
Blackburn	34	10	14	39	40
Coventry	34	8	14	26	36
Sheff Wed	35	8	13	34	37
Sunderland	35	9	13	32	31
Nottingham	35	8	11	16	47
West Ham	34	8	11	33	35
Nottingham	33	9	9	15	33
Not Forest	35	6	14	15	32

DIVISION ONE

GP	W	D	GF	GA	Pts
Man United	44	27	13	4	94
Sheff Wed	43	21	14	8	71
Wolves	43	21	9	13	48
Sheff Wed	44	19	13	13	52
Sheff Wed	43	18	13	12	65
Sheff Wed	43	17	15	11	56
Sheff Wed	43	17	15	11	56
Sheff Wed	43	17	15	11	56
Sheff Wed	43	17	15	11	56
Sheff Wed	43	17	15	11	56

DIVISION TWO

GP	W	D	GF	GA	Pts
Man United	44	24	9	56	81
Sheff Wed	44	22	12	9	82
Sheff Wed	44	21	12	9	82
Sheff Wed	44	21	12	9	82
Sheff Wed	44	21	12	9	82
Sheff Wed	44	21	12	9	82
Sheff Wed	44	21	12	9	82
Sheff Wed	44	21	12	9	82
Sheff Wed	44	21	12	9	82

DIVISION THREE

GP	W	D	GF	GA	Pts
Man United	44	24	9	56	81
Sheff Wed	44	22	12	9	82
Sheff Wed	44	21	12	9	82
Sheff Wed	44	21	12	9	82
Sheff Wed	44	21	12	9	82
Sheff Wed	44	21	12	9	82
Sheff Wed	44	21	12	9	82
Sheff Wed	44	21	12	9	82
Sheff Wed	44	21	12	9	82

SCOTTISH PREMIER

GP	W	D	GF	GA	Pts
Man United	33	24	5	4	83
Sheff Wed	32	20	5	7	61
Sheff Wed	33	18	9	6	65
Sheff Wed	34	13	10	11	41
Sheff Wed	34	11	8	16	47
Sheff Wed	33	9	13	11	42
Sheff Wed	34	9	10	15	37
Sheff Wed	33	11	4	18	39
Sheff Wed	34	8	10	16	34

Malaysia tourney makes Israelis aware of local cricket

By JOEL GORDIN

Since Israel's cricket team returned home from Malaysia earlier this month, the telephone at the home of the manager, Stanley Perlman, has not stopped ringing. Perlman has been asked to give half-a-dozen interviews to representatives of the Hebrew press, most of whom have never seen a game of cricket.

This sudden interest by the local news media in a sport most Israelis associate with eccentric Englishmen was brought about by the dramatic events at the International Cricket Council's Trophy Competition for Associate Members held in Malaysia.

An Israeli team took part despite the fact that Israel has no diplomatic ties with this predominantly Moslem country. At least three violent demonstrations took place against the team, making world headlines. "I heard about the riots from my wife who telephoned me in terror from Israel," jokes Perlman. "The rest of the team there saw the demos on CNN."

But in fact, there was no physical danger to the team, who were never even close to the protesters. The first demo was held outside the Malaysian Prime Minister's Office. In the second, they came to the wrong ground and broke up a game between Canada and The Netherlands.

At the third and most violent, the crowds stormed an empty field. Perlman will not confirm whether the demonstrators, mostly members of the Malaysia Islamic Party, cried or whether they were misled by astute Malaysian security officials. He does confirm,

however, that: "The security around us was very adequate. We never felt threatened. We took part in every official function where we were royally received by our hosts."

The contest for Associate Members of the ICC takes place every three or four years.

"Associates" are the countries not among the world's top nine Test playing nations, who also qualify automatically for the Cricket World Cup. Israel has taken part in all the six associate contests held since 1979. The South African-born Perlman, team captain from 1985 to 1994, is, in fact, the only player who has taken part in all six tournaments.

He is now chairman of the Israel Cricket Association as well as player-manager of the team. "The Malaysians had no objection but to allow our team to take part this year," explains Perlman. "The International Cricket Council stood squarely behind us and they would not have allowed Malaysia to host the prestigious tourney had they banned our team."

Nevertheless, Perlman initially kept news of Israel's participation under wraps so as not to provoke the hosts. He organized the complicated trip in conjunction with the Foreign Ministry who gave their full support. Visas were arranged through the Malaysian mission in Cairo.

The 19-man squad - 15 players and four officials including umpire Naor Gudker - flew to Kuala Lumpur via Bangkok.

Israel started the tour well. Although they lost their first game to Kenya that did remarkably well. They were the only team to score more than 150 against this powerful African side. But the

Israelis fizzled in the rest of the games and were beaten in turn by Ireland, the US and the relatively weak Gibraltar, Singapore and Argentina.

For the first time Israel finished at the bottom, rather than in the middle, of their group. For the record, the tourney was won by Bangladesh and the two runners-up were Kenya and Scotland. Perlman pooh-poohs the suggestion that the team's disappointing performance can be attributed to the players being intimidated by the riots or even by the news of the riots. The demos, he says, were "counterbalanced by the wonderful treatment we were given by our hosts, who included at one function, the King of Malaysia, Tunku Abdul Rahman."

Our batting let us down," he explains. "We were not used to the astro-turf wickets and we failed to adapt to the conditions."

The Israelis' bowling and fielding was well up to standard, says Perlman. Among the bowlers, Alan Moss, Benzie Kehimkar and Raymond Ashton had fine averages. In further mitigation, Perlman mentions that a number of the country's most promising players, for example Lord's young all-rounder Isaac Masit, were unable to take part in the 15-day tour. "However, the importance of this trip for us was not the results," he insists.

"I think we established a genuine diplomatic breakthrough for Israel. We showed the Malaysian people that Israelis are not extremist monsters."

The riots were in fact slammed by the Malaysian government. Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammed stated: "The demonstrations won't

help the Palestinian cause. They were a stupid act ... We (the Malaysian people) wanted to show the Israelis how tolerant we are ... that all people can live together..."

"It was only a pity," recalls Perlman "that that the tour coincided with the events at Har Homa. If not, perhaps even greater things may have happened on the diplomatic front."

After the team returned to Israel, Perlman reported to the Foreign Ministry who were impressed by their dignified presence. He also returned to the much quieter world of Israeli cricket.

The league, which starts on May 3, will this year comprise a record 16 teams, divided into the central and southern areas. The "central" clubs, like Netanya and Tel Aviv, are generally made up of those hailing originally from South Africa, Australia and U.K.

In the south, the action is around the towns of Lod, Ramle, Ashdod, Kiryat Gat, Beersheba, Dimona and Yerushalem all of which have large gatherings of immigrants from the Indian subcontinent.

Perlman has for the first time obtained the use of the Hadar Yosef athletics stadium. A proper pitch will be laid at the ground and practice nets will be set up. "Hopefully," states Perlman, "this will help improve our batting standards. Another advantage of Hadar Yosef is that there is a cool breeze. Important considering the game is played during the hottest hours of an Israeli summer."

Hadar Yosef is, in fact, a better ground than those in Malaysia, according to Perlman. He hopes that the ground in Ashdod, and later in Dimona will also be upgraded to modern stan-

dards. The 500-600 faithful who turn out at weekends to play in local league cricket do not only have to contend with the heat. Many still work six-day weeks and it is difficult for them to be parted from their families for an entire day on Saturday.

"For this reason we have arranged the league so each team plays every two weeks," Perlman explains.

Another problem facing the league is that promising players aged between 18 and 22, at the peak of their form, are conscripted into the IDF. "There is nothing we can do about this," laments Perlman. "The IDF won't give cricketers outstanding sportsman status. However, they are becoming more flexible and the army released a couple of conscripts for the tour."

"One of the big events in this year's local cricket calendar will be the Maccabiah. Israel will field a team against South Africa, the UK and Australia."

In November, Italy will tour Israel. Their team, according to Perlman, is about the same standard as that of Israel.

In the meantime every Saturday, like Noel Coward's Mad Dogs and Englishmen, Israel's cricketers continue to venture into the mid-day sun to play their favorite game.

The publicity resulting from the tour may stimulate interest in cricket among sabras and other groups, apart from those with roots in the countries of the former British Commonwealth. If this happens, the Malaysian anti-Israel demos may have unknowingly supplied a splendid service to the future of Israeli cricket.

Knicks clinch 1st-round homecourt advantage

NEW YORK (AP) - The New York Knicks clinched homecourt advantage for at least the first round of the playoffs with a 97-89 victory over the Indiana Pacers on Friday night.

The victory set up a showdown last night between the Knicks and the Bulls, with plenty at stake for both teams. Chicago will be going for an unprecedented second straight 70-win season; New York will be playing for the third seed in the East and a probable first-round matchup with slumping Detroit.

Patrick Ewing led the Knicks with 26 points, including a leaper over Rik Smits with just over a minute left that wrapped up New York's 31st home victory - its most since the 1993-94 team went 32-9 at Madison Square Garden and made it to the NBA Finals.

Charles Oakley added 18 points and 12 rebounds, and Larry Johnson and John Starks had 13 each. Allan Houston scored 12, including two 3-pointers in the fourth quarter to help the Knicks pull away.

Going into the game, the Knicks knew they could control their own destiny by winning their final two games.

Charlotte's surprising home loss to Toronto dropped the Hornets two games behind the Knicks and ensured that New York can finish no lower than fourth in the conference.

If the Knicks lost last night and Atlanta wins its final two games, the Knicks would drop to fourth. Reggie Miller had 19 points to lead Indiana (39-42), which clinched its first losing season since 1991-92.

The Pacers have already been eliminated from playoff contention and will miss the postseason for the first time in nine years.

Bullets 104, Magic 93

Washington stretched its home winning streak to eight games, but the Bulls will have to beat Cleveland on the road today to end their eight-year playoff drought. Rod Strickland had 27 points,

nine assists and seven rebounds for the Bulls, who needed a win and a Cleveland loss in Detroit to clinch the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

The Cavaliers' 82-75 victory over the Pistons means the winner of today's Cleveland-Washington game will enter the postseason and the loser will go home.

Lakers 123, Clippers 95

Elden Campbell scored 21 points and Shaquille O'Neal added 18 as host Los Angeles routed their crosstown rival for their fourth straight victory.

The victory moved the Lakers into a three-way tie with Houston and idle Seattle for second in the Western Conference. The Lakers can wrap up the Pacific Division title by winning at Portland today in their regular-season finale.

O'Neal, whose knee injury kept him from playing the last two times the Clippers beat the Lakers, cooled off from his 12-of-14 free-throw shooting performance Thursday against Sacramento. But he still made 8 of 12.

Raptors 108, Hornets 100

Glen Rice scored 38 points for Charlotte in Friday night's 108-100 loss. Rice made 12 of 22 field goals and all nine free throws. Charlotte shot 56.5 percent from 3-point range. Ricky Pierce made six of 10 3-pointers and Glen Rice made five of eight.

Charlotte's had its franchise-record nine-game winning streak snapped. Toronto scored 42 points in the third quarter. It was the highest point total surrendered by the Hornets in any period this season.

Celtics 119, 76ers 113

Boston rookie Antoine Walker recorded his second triple double of the season, and second in as many games, in Friday night's 119-113 win at Philadelphia. Walker had 23 points, 12 rebounds and 13 assists.

Philadelphia rookie Allen Iverson had 32 points and 15 assists.

With the win, the Celtics avoided, being the first team in NBA history

to go winless in their own division. "I told you guys that we'd take care of that. It wouldn't have been the end of the world. I never made a big deal of it," said Boston coach M.L. Carr after the road win.

Rockets 112, Mavs 102 (OT)

Charles Barkley grabbed 18 rebounds in Houston's overtime win against Dallas, passing the 11,000-rebound mark for his career.

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Miami	80	21	.741	
x-New York	58	25	.691	1
x-Orlando	45	38	.556	15
Washington	43	38	.531	17
New Jersey	25	58	.309	35
Philadelphia	22	58	.272	38
Boston	15	58	.185	45

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Chicago	89	12	.882	
x-Atlanta	55	25	.688	13 1/2
x-Charlotte	54	27	.667	15
x-Detroit	53	28	.654	16
Cleveland	42	39	.519	27
Indiana	38	42	.481	30
Milwaukee	32	49	.395	37
Toronto	29	49	.368	40

Western Conference

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Utah	62	18	.775	
x-Houston	56	25	.691	8 1/2
x-Minnesota	40	41	.494	22 1/2
Dallas	24	57	.298	88
San Antonio	20	61	.247	92
Denver	20	61	.247	92
Vancouver	13	68	.160	99

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-L.A. Lakers	58	25	.691	
x-Seattle	58	25	.691	
x-Portland	48	35	.581	5
x-Phoenix	40	41	.494	6
x-L.A. Clippers	36	45	.444	20
Sacramento	33	47	.413	24
Golden State	30	51	.370	26

x-clinched conference title
y-clinched division title
x-clinched playoff berth

Friday's results: New York 97, Indiana 89; Boston 119, Philadelphia 113; New Jersey 86, Miami 74; Toronto 108, Charlotte 104; Cleveland 82, Detroit 75; Minnesota 124, Milwaukee 112; Phoenix 106, San Antonio 95; Washington 104, Orlando 93; Houston 112, Dallas 102(OT); L.A. Lakers 123, L.A. Clippers 95. Thursday's results: Seattle 108, Denver 104; Utah 106, Golden State 93; Portland 105, Vancouver 73; L.A. Lakers 108, Sacramento 99.

Ducks 2-up on Phoenix

ANAHEIM (AP) - J.J. Daigneault of the Mighty Ducks, had two goals and an assist as Anaheim beat the Phoenix Coyotes 4-2 to take a 2-0 lead in their first-round playoff series on Friday night.

Anaheim extended its home unbeaten streak to 16 games. The Ducks have not lost at home since February 2.

Betar win, Beersheba loss gives capital squad grip on crown

By DEREK FATTAL and ORI LEWIS

The 26th round of the National League played this weekend provided just eighteen goals, but still proved to be one of the most decisive in determining the final shape of the campaign that began in August.

Betar Jerusalem's late winner away to Hapoel Kfar Sava in the only match in the top flight played on Friday, had fans and management celebrating the team's third-ever championship. While the title race is still not sealed, Betar's victory followed by Hapoel Beersheba's 2-1 defeat yesterday at Ironi Rishon LeZion extends Betar's lead to seven points with 12 still up for grabs.

Hapoel Petah Tikva took advantage of the southerners' discomfort to regain second position with an expected 3-0 victory over Hapoel Taiba. A point now separates the Petah Tikvas from Beersheba, who will now be aiming to seize the second place and the UEFA Cup berth that goes with it rather than stealing the title from Betar.

With bottom-positioned Taiba already dead - if not yet quite buried - the other central concern of the round was the battle for survival between 14th-placed Hapoel Tel Aviv and Zafirim Holon who occupy the slot below.

Nothing went Holo's way as Hapoel Tel Aviv won the 93rd Tel Aviv derby 2-1, while Holon lost by a solitary goal at home to Maccabi Petah Tikva. The Tel Avivans accordingly moved three points clear of Zafirim, and in a day of pure bad karma for the Holonites, the three clubs which had been positioned in the immediate places above in the table (Rishon, Herzliya and Beit She'an) all scored wins that gave them each nine points more than Holon with a mere 12 left to battle for.

Indeed, the writing seems to be on the wall for Holon which has a much tougher close to its season than Hapoel Tel Aviv. In the Second Division the dogfight for the second promotion spot continues to tantalize. Maccabi Netanya thrashed relegation-battlers Maccabi Yavne 4-1, while Ironi Ashdod beat fourth-placed Hakoah Ramat Gan 2-0, to keep the two promotion-hopefuls on equal points with just three matches left to play.

Hapoel Tel Aviv 2
Maccabi Tel Aviv 1
Hapoel notched up their first derby win at Bloomfield since the 1990-91 campaign against their old foes yesterday, and in the process provided themselves with a lifeline that should save them from relegation.

Unlike the State Cup duel played a few days earlier the reds showed some real appetite for the fight despite being outplayed for most of the first half. Eli Driks came close for Maccabi with a headed effort in the 32nd minute which Savit Elimelech adroitly saved.

Things began to go Hapoel's way just before the break when Alon Hazan created an opening with a cross from the right that picked up Nissim Avitan in the area between Maccabi's two central defenders. Avitan guided the ball into goal with a flying header.

Four minutes after the interval a quick break allowed Sergio Pogodin to extend the reds lead after dispossessing Amir Shelah on the left flank. Pogodin ran on

and directed a shot between the legs of the advancing Tel Aviv goalkeeper Alexander Obarov.

Nir Klinger helped pull a goal back for last season's champions in the 54th minute with a shot from the edge of the area which Hapoel's Sharon Mimer scooped into his own goal in a desperate attempted clearance.

Knowing that their whole season depended on holding on to their narrow lead, the hosts weathered the heavy barrage that Maccabi threw at them and when referee Eyal Tsur finally sounded the whistle that ended the match after five long minutes of injury time the Hapoel fans showed their appreciation with a joyous vocal salute.

Zafirim Holon 0
Maccabi Petah Tikva 1
Holon never looked like they were going to get the better of their opponents in this ill-tempered match. Whilst no one can fault their application, the Holonites lacked the imagination necessary to break down their well-organized opponents.

Offer Shitreet proved to be Holon's executioner after hitting the post and having a strong penalty claim denied. A 69th-minute free kick by Maccabi's Idan Tal was completely misjudged by Azerbaijan goalkeeper Alexander Zhidkov, and then smartly knocked into goal by the powerful Petah Tikva striker.

The deep depression that pervaded the Holon quarters after the match suggests that the players and management fear the worst as the relegation fight nears its finale.

Maccabi Haifa 2
Bnei Yehuda 1
This victory puts Maccabi ahead of their rivals Hapoel Haifa, but the greens will rue their inability to have secured a similar result in the midweek meeting in the State Cup quarter-finals.

Clumsy goalkeeping by Nir Davidovitch allowed the visitors to take the lead through Ronen Zafir after six minutes. Hezi Sherazi leveled for Maccabi in the 13th minute but a minute later Moshe Glam was penalized for upending Bnei Yehuda captain Alon Mizrahi in the area. Davidovitch, partly exonerating his earlier mishap, managed to read Mizrahi's intentions and saved the spot kick.

A quick turn in the area by Mizrahi should have put Bnei Yehuda back in the lead but the shot crashed against the Haifa post.

A burst down the right in the 74th minute by Alon Harazi led to Haim Silvas's winning goal for the Haifaite.

Hapoel Petah Tikva 3
Hapoel Taiba 0
This result was so predictable that the match was not included on this weekend's Toto coupon.

Petah Tikva's Slovakian-import Ivan Christof opened the scoring with a second-minute goal, and Yaniv Ofri added with a header midway through the first half.

Eli Abarbanel completed the proceedings with Petah Tikva's third goal five minutes before the end of the game.

While accountants might argue Taiba still have a mathematical chance of escape, even their most diehard fans accept the sad fact that their club will be back in the Second Division beginning next season.

Hapoel Kfar Sava 0
Betar Jerusalem 1
A sellout crowd of 7,000 turned up at Kfar Sava's municipal ground for Friday's only game with leaders Betar Jerusalem.

The league leaders' supporters were the larger contingent by far and the police had to limit the number of spectators in the ground, some not being able to take their seats.

A tame first half, with Kfar Sava having the slight advantage, was only made worse for Betar in the dressing room at halftime when an altercation between Itzik Zohar and coach Eli Cohen forced the latter to replace Zohar with Ronnen Harazi at the half.

But Betar were still unable to break the deadlock and things only changed when Nir Sivilla replaced Yossi Abukis towards the end of the match.

Sivilla himself scored the winner eight minutes from time after he latched onto a rebounding shot by Harazi and gained the vital three points with a close-range shot.

Ironi Rishon 2
Hapoel Beersheba 1
Rishon held on well in the first half as Beersheba failed to take advantage of the strong wind in Rishon.

In the second period, with the wind now blowing at their backs, Rishon took the wind out of Beersheba's sails as they tried to hold onto second place in the league, when Moshe Sabag (53rd

minute) and then Tal Braya (57th) gave the hosts a significant advantage.

Beersheba got a consolation effort three minutes from the end when Shai Holtzman scored from the penalty spot after Shad Halilovic was fouled in the area.

Hapoel Beit She'an 3
Hapoel Haifa 0
Beit She'an took advantage of Haifa's lack of interest in the league and the fact that Tal Banin was missing for yet another week (suspended by coach Ivan Katalinic).

All the goals were scored in the second half as first Serjan Chulakov (47th minute) and then Udi Shurman (58th) and finally Shimon Danan (87th) did the damage for Beit She'an.

Hapoel Jerusalem 0
Maccabi Herzliya 1
Hapoel Jerusalem are unable to find their winning form of late, and so yesterday at Teddy Stadium, they came unstuck in the second half after a very promising first half.

The Jerusalemites should have been at least 2-0 up at halftime, but Yair Assayag failed to convince the referee that he was fouled in the area and Assi Tubi missed an easy shot at an open goal.

The second half was much tamer, and Herzliya grabbed the opportunity to get a win through a powerful Oleg Neduda shot in the 52nd minute.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Zafirim Holon	(0) 0	Maccabi Petah Tikva	(0) 1
Hapoel Beit She'an	(0) 3	Ofer Shitreet, 80	
Serjan Chulakov, 47		Hapoel Haifa	(0) 0
Udi Shurman, 58			
Shimon Danan, 87		Hapoel Beersheba	(0) 1
Ironi Rishon LeZion	(0) 2	Shai Holtzman, 87 (pen.)	
Moshe Sabag, 53		Maccabi Herzliya	(0) 1
Tal Braya, 57		Oleg Neduda, 52	
Hapoel Jerusalem	(0) 0	Maccabi Tel Aviv	(0) 1
Nissim Avitan, 45		Sharon Mimer, 54 (o.g.)	
Sergei Pogodin, 49			
Hapoel Kfar Sava	(0) 0	Betar Jerusalem	(0) 1
		Nir Sivilla, 82	
Maccabi Haifa	(1) 2	Bnei Yehuda	(1) 1
Hezi Sherazi, 13		Ronen Zafir, 6	
Haim Silvas, 74			
Hapoel Petah Tikva	(2) 3	Hapoel Taiba	(0) 0
Ivan Christof, 2			
Yaniv Ofri, 24			
Eli Abarbanel, 85			

SECOND DIVISION

Hapoel Ashdod	1	Maccabi Acre	0
Maccabi Jaffa	1	Hapoel Ramat Gan	0
Maccabi Kfar Kana	0	Ness Ziona	0
Maccabi Netanya	4	Maccabi Yavne	1
Hapoel Kiryat Shmona	2	Hapoel Hadera	0
Hapoel Ashdod	4	Maccabi Kiryat Gat	0
Hapoel Bat Yam	0	Betar Tel Aviv	2
Hakoah Ramat Gan	0	Ironi Ashdod	2

This week's winning Toto line: 2,1,1,2,1,2,1,1,2,X,1,2,2.
This week's winning Toto Plus line: X,X,X,X,1,X,X,1,2,X,1,X,1,2.
This week's Tototek numbers: 10, 12, 21, 28, 29, 30, 32.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Diff	Pts
Betar Jerusalem	26	19	4	3	54	16	38
Hapoel Petah Tikva	26	16	6	4	47	25	54
Hapoel Beersheba	26	17	2	7	41	23	53
Macc Petah Tikva	26	13	7	6	37	21	46
Maccabi Tel Aviv	26	13	6	7	45	28	45
Maccabi Haifa	26	9	9	8	31	28	36
Hapoel Kfar Sava	26	10	6	10	28	28	36
Hapoel Haifa	26	10	5	11	28	30	35
Bnei Yehuda	25	9	6	10	25	31	33
Hapoel Beit She'an	26	8	6	12	24	27	30
Maccabi Herzliya	26	9	3	14	17	24	30
Ironi Rishon LeZion	26	8	6	12	29	44	30
Hapoel Jerusalem	26	8	5	13	26	37	29
Hapoel Tel Aviv	26	5	9	12	15	26	24
Zafirim Holon	26	4	9	13	15	34	21
Hapoel Taiba	25	4	1	20	14	54	13

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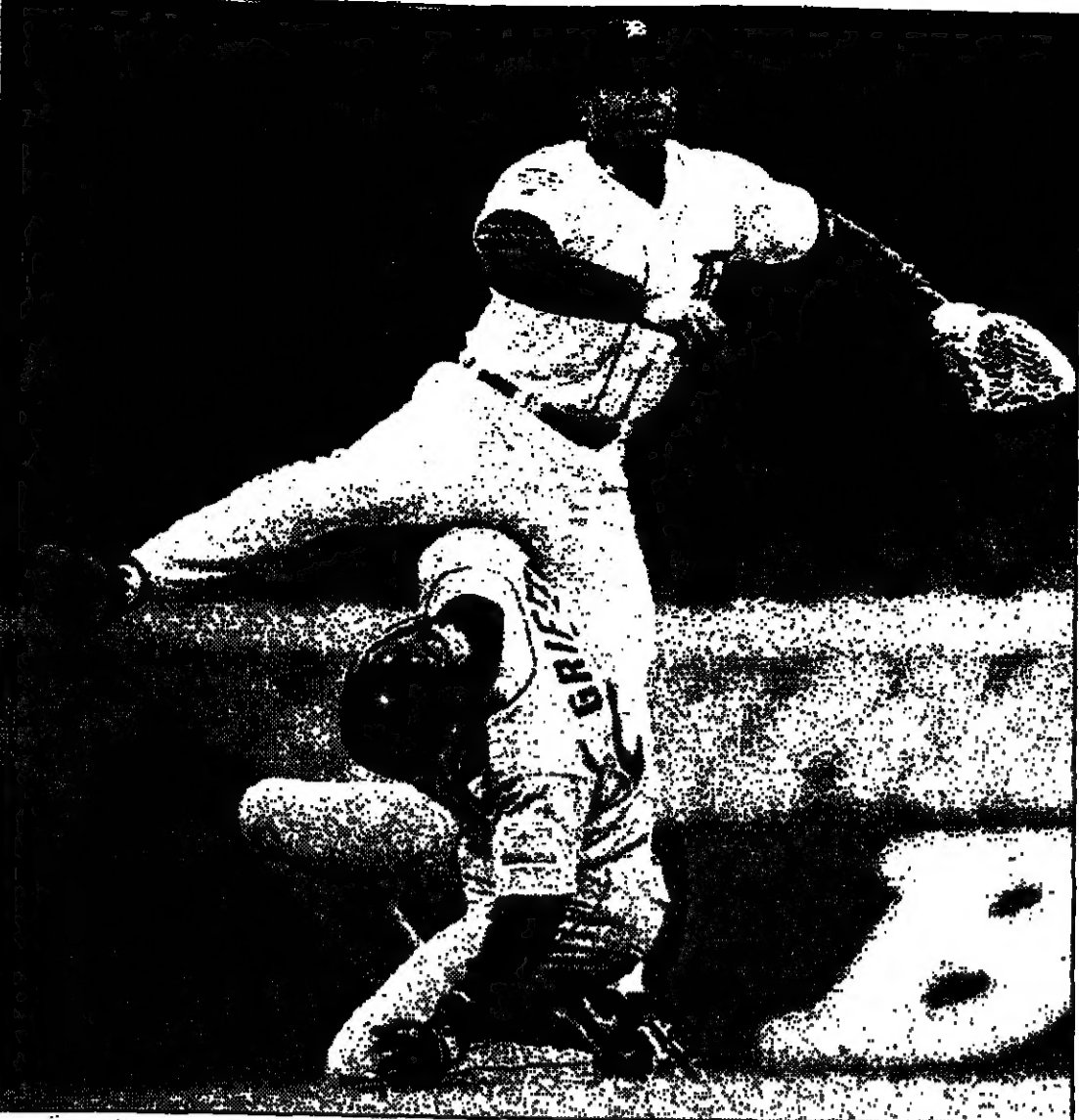
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TURNING TWO - Tigers 2B Damon Easley throws to first to complete a double play after forcing Mariners' Ken Griffey at second. The Mariners beat The Tigers 8-6 in Thursday's action. (AP)

Yankees beat Chisox, end 5-game skid

CHICAGO (AP) - Bernie Williams drove in four runs and the New York Yankees scored five times in the first inning Friday night, beating the Chicago White Sox 10-4 to end a five-game losing streak.

Mariano Duncan hit a slow bouncer to third. He beat Snopek's throw that skipped past Frank Thomas at first, allowing two more runs to score.

New York made it 7-0 in the second as Raines reached on Thomas' error. Boggs walked, Williams delivered an RBI single and Martinez hit a sacrifice fly.

Williams hit a two-run double in the third, increasing the lead to 9-0. Martinez hit his sixth home run in the sixth.

Chicago got four back in the fifth off Ramiro Mendoza (1-1). Thomas and Snopek had RBI hits and Dave

Martinez had a two-run single. But Mendoza picked off Martinez at first to end the inning.

Twins 10, Mariners 3
Roberto Kelly hit a three-run double that capped a five-run fifth inning and visiting Minnesota won its third straight game.

Rich Becker and Greg Colbrunn hit Minnesota's first homers in six games as the Twins won their sixth in a row in the Kingdom since May 6, 1996. The Twins were 5-1 in Seattle last season.

Frankie Rodriguez (1-2), a 13- game winner for the Twins last season, got into the victory column.

Jay Buhner and Paul Sorrento hit consecutive home runs off Rodriguez to open the Seattle seventh. The Mariners, just back after going 6-1 on their first road trip of the season, had won four straight games.

Scott Sanders (0-4) didn't make it through the fifth inning in his fourth start and saw his ERA climb to 10.53. He gave up six runs on seven hits and two walks in 4 1/3 innings.

The Twins took a 1-0 lead in the first when Terry Steinbach, singled, stole second and scored on Matt Lawton's double.

Seattle tied it in the bottom half when Joey Cora doubled, Alex Rodriguez singled and Ken Griffey Jr. hit into a double play.

In the fifth, the Twins scored five times for a 6-1 lead. After Becker hit a two-run homer, Minnesota loaded the bases on a walk to Lawton, Colbrunn's single and an intentional walk to Todd Walker.

Kelly followed with his double off the fence in right-center that cleared the bases and drove Sanders from the game.

NATIONAL LEAGUE
Giants 5, Marlins 4
Jeff Kent singled home the winning run as San Francisco Giants rallied for three runs for their seventh straight victory.

Robb Nen (1-1) blew a save for only the second time in 26 chances dating to last season.

With Florida ahead 4-2, Nen walked pinch-hitters Marvin Benard and Bill Mueller and gave up an infield hit to Jose Vizcaino.

Glenallen Hill tied the game with a double off the center-field wall, Barry Bonds was intentionally walked and Kent singled over shortstop with the infield in.

Braves 14, Rockies 0
Tom Glavine pitched his first shutout since June 1995 - when he earned the first one ever at Coors Field - and Kenny Lofton had five hits, leading Atlanta to a road win.

Lofton, who homered, marched a career high with his second five-hit game of the week. Atlanta won its sixth in a row and is 12-1 since losing its first two games of the season.

Fred McGriff had four hits and four RBIs and Chipper Jones and Michael Tucker each three hits for the Braves.

Glavine (3-0) scattered 8 hits, walked one and struck out six.

Friday's NL results: Cincinnati 6, Pittsburgh 1; Philadelphia 8, Montreal 3; Chicago Cubs at NY p.p.; Atlanta 14, Colorado 0; San Francisco 5, Florida 4; Los Angeles 5, Houston 3.

Thursday's NL results: Florida 2, St. Louis 1; Montreal at Philadelphia, p.p.; Pittsburgh 3, Cincinnati 2.

Friday's AL results: Oakland 9, Detroit 5; Baltimore at Boston p.p.; Milwaukee 10, Cleveland 2; NY 10, Chicago 4; Toronto 6, Texas 5; Minnesota 10, Seattle 3.

Thursday's AL results: Toronto 5, Oakland 4; Seattle 8, Detroit 6; Minnesota 4, Anaheim 3 (10); Milwaukee 5, NY 4; Cleveland 4, Boston 3; Texas 5, Kansas City 1; Baltimore 1, Chicago 0.

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2 Ingenuousness (6)
3 Training (8)
4 Char (4)
5 Gum (5)
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7 Twenty (5)
3 In rags (8)
6 Chatter (7)
7 Royal residence (6)
9 Irascible (5)
0 Stepped (6)
2 Precise (5)
4 Den (4)

US disputes Israel view on Iran missiles

By STEVE RODAN

The Clinton administration regards Iran as a major security threat to the US, but does not share Israel's intelligence assessment that Russia is helping Tehran develop a medium-range ballistic missile, US officials say.

The disagreement emerged during a Washington hearing of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs Subcommittee on Thursday. US officials testified there on Iran's plans to develop conventional and nonconventional weapons and the help Tehran is receiving from such nations as Russia, China and North Korea.

Israeli officials, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, have insisted that Moscow has embarked on a massive aid program to help Iran build a missile with nonconventional warheads that can strike any part of Israel. The Russians, according to the Israeli assessment, are supplying technology from the SS-4 missile, with a range of 1,250 kilometers. Last week, Air Force Commander Maj. Gen. Eytan Ben-Elihu said

that Iran has already conducted ground tests of the indigenous missile.

But at the Senate hearing on Thursday, US officials said they do not have such evidence. "We haven't concluded that these transactions have taken place, that transfers of advanced missiles have taken place," Assistant Secretary of State for Proliferation Robert Einhorn said. "But we need to watch that very carefully."

Einhorn refused to go into details, saying "This is very difficult in open session." He added that US officials, including President Bill Clinton, raised the issue of Russian-Iranian cooperation with Kremlin leaders, including President Boris Yeltsin.

"We are extremely concerned, however, by North Korea's supply of Scud missiles and Scud-related technology to Iran as well as reports of missile-related cooperation with Russia and Chinese entities," Einhorn said. Another US official, Assistant Secretary of State for Near East Affairs David Welch said Iran is a "very important national security threat and a serious long-term threat as well."



Pessah cleaning

Jerusalem residents in Mea She'arim prepare their pots for Pesach last week.

(Efraim Kishchuk)

'NY Times' offers guide for Jewish perplexed

By MARILYN HENRY

The latest guide for the Jewish perplexed is *The New York Times*.

In the last week, mainstream Orthodoxy and Jews for Jesus have offered wisdom, warning and solace to confused Jews with ads in the *Times*, as well as in selected Anglo-Jewish newspapers.

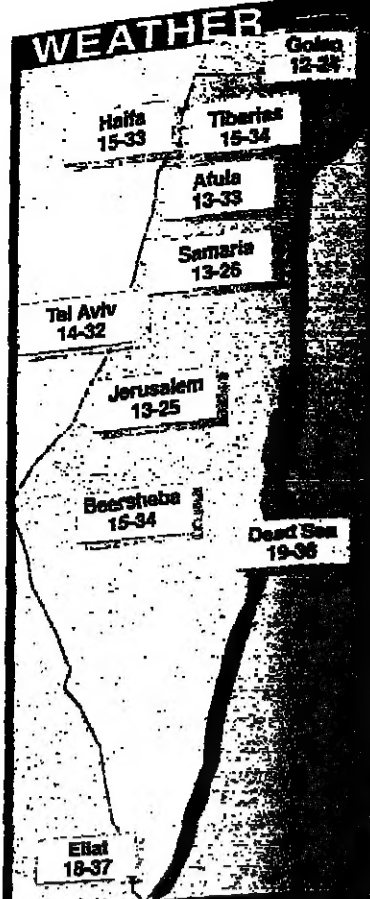
"A word of advice to 80 to 90 percent of American Jews from Jews for Jesus," said a full-page ad in Thursday's paper. The Union of Orthodox Rabbis is telling Reform and

Conservative Jews that what they believe is not Judaism, the ad said, adding: "Now the Israeli Knesset has passed the first of three required votes to delegitimize non-Orthodox conversions." "We understand how you must feel," the ad said. "Time and again we have been told that we are no longer Jews."

US Jews were angered and bewildered by a declaration three weeks ago from the Union of Orthodox Rabbis blasting the Reform and Conservative movements. In response, Yeshiva University President Norman Lamm took out an

ad in Jewish newspapers assailing the "unwelcome and unwholesome rhetoric by a fringe group."

"Dayenu," it said, adding that Orthodox Judaism does not impugn the integrity of the non-Orthodox. The Orthodox Union, the mainstream Orthodox group in the US, meanwhile published an ad that seemed at least as concerned with protecting its name as with peaceful relations. The OU was "highly critical of the statement recently released by a Jewish organization whose name is easily confused with that of the Orthodox Union," the ad said.



AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH	WIND	SEA
Amsterdam	01	10	10	clear
Berlin	01	10	10	partly cloudy
Buenos Aires	17	24	24	clear
Calcutta	24	32	24	clear
Chicago	17	24	24	clear
Copenhagen	01	10	10	partly cloudy
Frankfurt	01	10	10	clear
Geneva	01	10	10	clear
Helsinki	01	10	10	cloudy

Winning cards

The winning cards in Friday's Mital Hapayis Chance draw were the ace of spades, ace of hearts, eight of diamonds and nine of clubs.

Lubotzky warns of rift with Diaspora over conversion bill

By ALLISON KAPLAN SOMMER

American Jewry is "extremely upset" over the Knesset approval in first reading of the conversion bill, MK Alex Lubotzky of the Third Way party said after returning from a visit to the United States.

Lubotzky said he is concerned that unless the question is resolved, the rift between much of the American Jewish community and Israel will be irreparable.

Among the compromises Lubotzky explored during his trip, in which he spoke with Reform, Conservative, and Orthodox leaders, was the possibility that non-Orthodox converts would be registered as Jewish on their identity

cards, but in the Interior Ministry's population registry it will be noted that their conversion was Conservative or Reform.

Since the practice would be regulated, he maintained, the registry notations would not be a blacklist, but rather a "white list."

"Then when people want to get married, the Interior Ministry would pass on the information to the Rabbinate and the Rabbinate would make their decision from there," Lubotzky said.

Lubotzky said that in his meetings with Orthodox rabbis in the US, he stressed that the bill as it is currently written represents no real victory for them, though it has been represented as such in the press.

BAR-ON

Continued from Page 1

Over the weekend, Foreign Minister David Levy and his Geshar faction continued their silence. However, Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan issued a statement that he and his Tsomet faction "stand unequivocally behind the prime minister, ready to offer any support and aid needed. We will not be party to any attempts to fell this government. Those who lost the recent elections have not reconciled themselves to the results and will stop at nothing to change them, even by illicit means."

Both Yisrael Ba'aliya and The Third Way have scheduled faction meetings for tonight, after the report's publication. The two factions together could cost the prime minister his majority and could trigger elections, which would also include Knesset elections.

This would require the vote of 61 MKs. To bring down the prime minister without disbanding the Knesset, a majority of 81 MKs is needed.

Yisrael Ba'aliya met on Friday and decided not to act until the report is made public.

Third Way faction chairman Yehuda Harel has already come out in support of elections in the event of a harsh report.

Yisrael Ba'aliya's Natan Sharansky is said to be receptive to the argument that in effect,

nothing is left of the initial Bar-On Affair charges of a deal to grant a plea bargain for Deri in return for Shas support for the Hebron agreement.

Labor, for its part, is making hectic attempts to contact central figures from both parties and persuade them to bolt the coalition.

Labor is also demanding a state inquiry commission to examine the whole affair, regardless of whether or not there are indictments.

Meretz has put up banners at major junctions throughout the Tel Aviv area saying, "Corruption triumphs with Bibi."

Shas may also stage street demonstrations, as an indictment against Deri only would be seen as another confirmation of the Shas assertion that it and its leaders are victims of persecution and vindictive hounding by the police and prosecution.

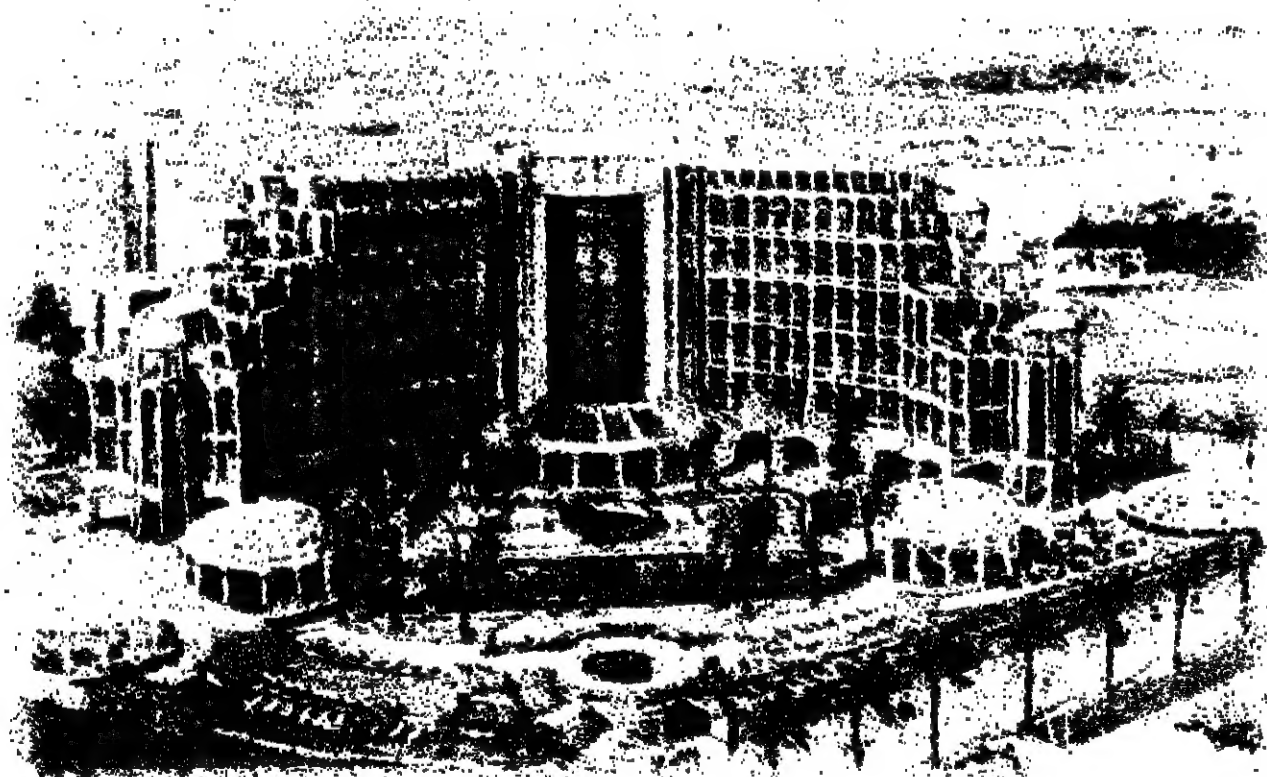
Deri was quoted by his party's newspaper *Yom Leyom* as hoping "the prosecution will evince responsibility and not issue indictments it knows won't withstand the rigors of the courtroom."

"The entire episode was born out of the desire to bring this government down. There are those who have still not accepted the fact that Netanyahu won and that he formed a coalition with the religious."

He promised that "Shas will in future settle accounts with those political forces who came out against it."

SUITES FOR SALE

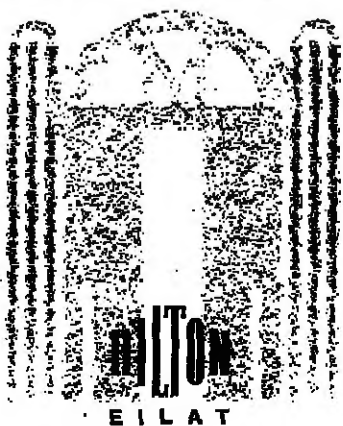
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